

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



January 29, 2023, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor, or Pastor can commune you, or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live”.



Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of Candles

Hymn “Let Justice Flow like Streams”

Red Worship Book 717

- 1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✠ Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

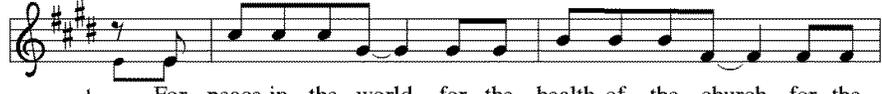
Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



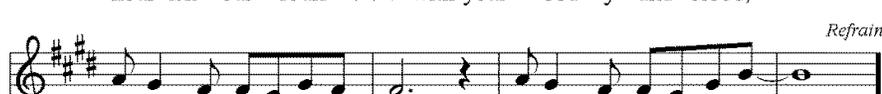
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of Day

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm: Psalm 15

L: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

C: Who may abide upon your holy hill?

L: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

C: who speak the truth from their heart; R

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

C: they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

L: In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.

C: They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

L: They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

C: Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. R

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 205

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson

Sermon

Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson

Song “My Lighthouse”

FiA Choir

Apostle’s Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 105

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering/Hymn “Take My Life, That I May Be”

Red Worship Book 583

Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 1** Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. ***Refrain***
- 2** Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose. ***Refrain***
- 3** Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. ***Refrain***
- 4** Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. ***Refrain***

Offering Prayer

L: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: Amen

Prayers of Intercession

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L; Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

C; receive our prayer.

L: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place (*especially*). Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 208

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Hymn

“Christ Be Our Light”

Red Worship Book 715

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. **Refrain**

3 Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **Refrain**

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. **Refrain**

5 Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. **Refrain**

Communion Hymn

“Love Has Come”

Red Worship book 292

1 Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Prayer

L: Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **C: Amen.**

Hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With You"

Red Worship Book 818

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true; tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus

Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin....



****The Noisy Offering** for January is for
The Blessing Box, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Psalm

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20



Thank you to Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson for preaching today!



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Virgil Seegebarth, Colleen Volden, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Leigha Ness, Kathy Thompson, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy's brother), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny).

Care facility member ~Dorothy Svendsen.

For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods. For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



***Thank you to Amy Johnson for taking care of plastic bag recycling.
We collected enough for a bench, and we will keep collecting hopefully for another bench.***

Thank you for donating!

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson preaching; Annual meeting.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study.

Wed.-Tues. Mindy at Youth Extravaganza.

Wed. 4:30 pm FiA choir practice; 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Worship/Rick Dunkley preaching; 7-8 pm Youth Group..

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study.

Sat. 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Debra Hanson-Carlson preaching



Annual Meeting, is today, immediately following Worship.

All confirmed members are encouraged to stay for the meeting. We need to have a quorum to vote or otherwise council will make the decisions.

We need to vote on church council positions that need to be filled; new board members whose terms are expiring; and many other positions; look at reports and approve the budget; vote on congregational project (s); and any other church business.

This is your chance to have your voice/vote heard/counted,
WE NEED YOU!!!



Giving statements are available to be picked up on the table in Narthex, upon request sent to you by mail or if you request by email Kathy will email them to you.

firstlcfinancialsecretary@scicable.com



Lenten Soup and Worship

Would you be interested in an 11:30 am Lenten soup lunch and Noon Worship during Lent? We would like to hear from you. Call the office. Thank You.



Please join us for the Community Dinner on Tuesday, February 7th from 5-6:30 pm.



Deacon Colleen Bernu will be facilitating the Blanket Exercise.

The Blanket Exercise, originally created by Kairos in collaboration with Indigenous communities in Canada, is an interactive learning experience that raises awareness of the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the United States. Based on real-life experiences, the Blanket Exercise is designed to increase knowledge about the laws, policies, and programs used during nation building by having participants literally walk through U.S. history.

Please contact Elaine Garaghty if interested. (763-229-1035)

Ellie Nelson's Family is having a 90th Birthday Party,
Open House on Saturday, February 11th from Noon-
4pm at the Hinckley Community Center.
All are invited to celebrate this special occasion.



Youth Mission Trip Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser Sunday, February 12th 11 am-12:30 pm (Due to Super Bowl Game) Free Will Offering

Menu:
Italian Spaghetti
Chicken Alfredo
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert

Roses and fudge will be available.

Happy Valentine's

