

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 22, 2023

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit,
and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.*

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!



Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Come and Journey”

Setting by Thomas Keesecker
Keith Stelter, oboe; Carrie Stelter, cello

*Come and journey with a Savior who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters, and who loved us on the earth.
Come and journey, come and journey with a Savior who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters. In the Spirit we are one.*
-Herbert O'Driscoll

Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give
thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you
created us in your image and placed us in a
well-watered garden.

**In the desert, you promised pools of water for
the parched, and you gave us water from the
rock.**

When we did not know the way, you sent the
Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the
cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the
water of life.

**We praise you for your salvation through
water, for the water in this font, and for all
water everywhere.**

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only
you can give.

**To you be given honor and praise through
Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*Canticle of Praise — see *Yellow Supplement*, sing Stanza 1 only

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9 — sung responsively by verse



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

One thing I ask of the Lord; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God | in the temple.

For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up- | on a rock.

Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.

**My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, | I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians — 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my

brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

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

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — *see Yellow Supplement, refrain only (sung twice)*

***Gospel** — Matthew 4:12-23

The Gospel of Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 817

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

Sung in this format: Stanzas 1 & 2: REFRAIN, Stanzas 3 & 4: REFRAIN

*The Apostles' Creed

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 power of 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

*Prayers of Intercession

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

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches and faith communities in Saint Peter. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ. **Amen.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Setting by Thomas Keesecker
Keith Stelter, oboe; Carrie Stelter, cello

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."*

*I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.*

-Horatius Bonar

Sharing the Meal

*Great Thanksgiving & Preface — see *Yellow Supplement*

*“Holy, Holy, Holy” — see *Yellow Supplement*

*Words of Institution and The Lord’s Prayer

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

To our God of true justice, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Invitation to Communion

Here is the table set for our special meal. The bread, the wine, prepared and presented.
Ready to be served and shared.
We remember Jesus sharing a meal like this with his disciples, his friends.
He included everyone, those he could trust and those he could not trust.
Today we are his disciples, his friends. Each one of us is welcome. How amazing it is to be loved and wanted even when we have not been perfect. How wonderful it is to be included as we are.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Canticle — no. 1056, from *All Creation Sings*

“God Bless to Us Our Bread”

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
God bless to . . . us our . . . bread, and give bread . . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

Hymn — no. 482

“I Come with Joy”

Communion Blessing and Prayer

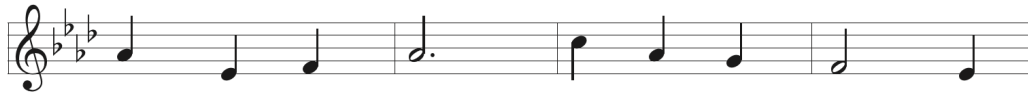
Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 1000, from *All Creation Sings*

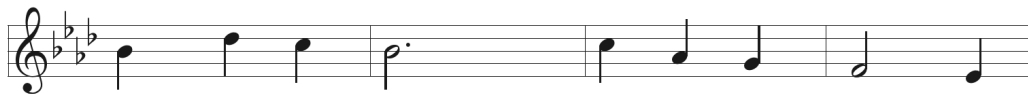
“God's Work, Our Hands”



All 1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
Low Voices 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
High Voices 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
All 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
All Sing Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
All Sing Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

*Benediction

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

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Processional in Ab”

David N. Johnson

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Kallie Stadick, Rachel Ribar

Acolytes: Maxwell & Nolan Swenson

Greeter: Maren Swenson, Ivy McHugh

Reader: John Bipes

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Musicians: Carrie and Keith Stelter

Communion Preparers: Cheryl Kautt, Mary Thompson

Communion Servers: John Bipes, John Malm, Aileen Bipes

Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose, Shirb Sylvester

Announcements

- Flowers for the altar are given today by Mary Thompson and Sylvia Perron in memory of Eunós Amos.
- Fellowship refreshments are being served today after worship by the CCM Committee.
- After worship today, you are invited to join Pr. Chris in the Dining Hall as we continue our Bible study on *Making Sense of Martin Luther*. No prior experience is necessary. Please join us!
- **All Congregation Meeting** next Sunday, January 29 in the Sanctuary after worship. At this important meeting the congregation will vote for representatives and approve the budget for 2023. Please be there as a quorum of 75 voting members is needed!
- Just a note about next Sunday: we will be using the appointed readings for the Fifth Sunday of Epiphany to accommodate RIC Sunday on Feb 5th and those resources, which are based on the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany. We will use both sets of readings, but they will be flipped around!
- A reminder to sign up for our "**First's Friends and Family Women's Retreat**" by Jan. 30. The retreat will be held from 9:00am - 12:30pm on Sat. Feb. 4th. Women high school age and older are invited to attend!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, and Shirley Storkson.
- We pray for the families of Shirly Strand and Joan Reschke (sister of Mary Lynn Ditsch & aunt of Nancy Timm) and for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for Karen Smithers, who is recovering from hip surgery.
- We pray for Shirley Storkson, Shanon Nowell's mother-in-law, who is recovering from a broken hip.
- We pray for peace and unity around the world, for all victims of natural disasters, for the sick, and for those longing for the hands and feet of Jesus to minister to them and alongside them.