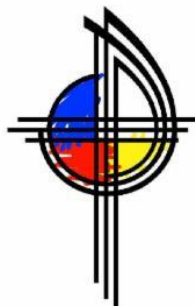
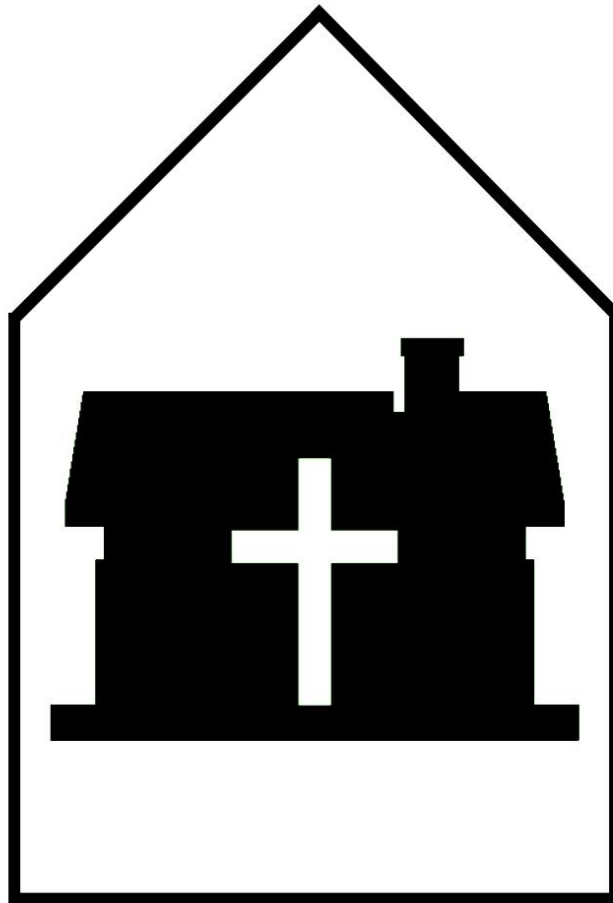


WORSHIP COMPANION

21ST EDITION

First Sunday of Advent – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

December 1st 2024 – February 23rd 2025



Faith Lutheran Church
730 Collingwood Ave
Whitehall, OH 43213

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Thanksgiving for the Word, Proclamation of the Light, Sending, Blessing, and Dismissal written by Rev. Daniel W. Hille.

Call to Worship adapted from Robert Alter’s “The Psalms” by Nate Terry.

Confession and Forgiveness, Prayer of the Day, Thanksgiving for Baptism, Thanksgiving for the Word (p. 26), Prayers of Intercession, and Lord’s Prayer taken from *Sundays & Seasons 2024*.

Advent Litany and *The Thanksgiving* written by Rev. William S. Carter.

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Edited and compiled by Rev. Daniel W. Hille and Nate Terry.

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First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light our candles.

Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Holy Child Within the Manger

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.

Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] 25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because

your redemption is drawing near.”

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30 as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Advent Litany

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say-
a voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will live in our land.

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth.

Holy and Gracious God we thank you for this season of waiting, of hope, and of expectation. Be with us as we make our journey to Bethlehem, reminding us of the words that our Savior taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.

Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Bless us as we light our candles.

Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Holy Child Within the Manger

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.

Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 3:1-6

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Advent Litany

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say-

a voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for his friends

and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him,

and his glory will live in our land.

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth.

Holy and Gracious God we thank you for this season of waiting, of hope, and of expectation. Be with us as we make our journey to Bethlehem, reminding us of the words that our Savior taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.

Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.
Bless us as we light our candles.
Strengthen our hearts
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.
May he give water to all who thirst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Holy Child Within the Manger

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who comes to wake us from sleep,
who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.

Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 3:7-18

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11 In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13 He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Advent Litany

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say-
a voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will live in our land.

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth.

Holy and Gracious God we thank you for this season of waiting, of hope, and of expectation. Be with us as we make our journey to Bethlehem, reminding us of the words that our Savior taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.

Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.

Bless us as we light our candles.

Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

Holy Child Within the Manger

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.

Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel – Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon

Musical Offering

Advent Litany

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say-
a voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him,
and his glory will live in our land.

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth.

Holy and Gracious God we thank you for this season of waiting, of hope, and of expectation. Be with us as we make our journey to Bethlehem, reminding us of the words that our Savior taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Go in peace, make peace wherever you go.

Amen.

Christmas Eve/Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Lighting of Candles

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Unto them has the light shined.

Light candles

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.

Unto us is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

Unto us the Christ is born:

O come, let us worship him.

The angel said, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,

That whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel - Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(Pause for a brief silence.)

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The Thanksgiving

Over many centuries, people have believed in you, O God, and have celebrated the night of Jesus' birth. Help us to be conscious this night of those first believers who were called to follow Jesus:

For Mary and Joseph, for shepherds and stable helpers and townsfolk who saw the newborn Christ Child, and heard his infant cry.

Thank you for the first disciples and followers of your Son:

For Peter and John, for Martha and Mary, for unnamed persons whose lives were made new as they heard his voice and answered his call.

Thank you for those who established the church, and set the Good News into written form:

For Mark and Matthew, Luke and John, for people who lent their homes and used their gifts to encourage the fellowship of your people.

Many of us are aware of those of our own families who have worshiped you, often helping us to discover the faith we call our own. Thank you for grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters and other relatives who have been part of your church;

For the models they provided us, and for the challenges they gave us to reach beyond our own experiences.

Thank you for our family in the faith, those with whom we study and worship and serve,

For the support and encouragement and challenge that grows out of our shared life in Christ.

In all of our remembering of others, let us recommit ourselves to faith and trust in the one you have given us.

Jesus the Christ, our Savior, in whom we see your love, O God, and through whom we are given eternal life. Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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.

Master of the Universe, you are the Giver of light. We beg you to enlighten your church and our homes.

May we witness to all the great loving-kindness which was made visible in the flesh of your Son.

You have hidden your wisdom from the wise and sophisticated, from the proud and contented of this world.

Reveal your love to the "little ones" and to those who seek you with single-hearted purpose.

Rejoicing in the wonderful love of God who has spoken to us in Jesus Christ, let us pray:
Father, we your people rise up in splendor, for your light has come. Your glory shines upon us now as we sing your praise. We are grateful for this light who is Jesus Christ, your Son. He brightens our lives and guides us along the only sure path to you.

Blessing

May the Lord Almighty enrich our days and guide our footsteps into the ways of his peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Call To Worship (Adapted from Psalm 148)

Sing a new song to the Lord;
All the Earth sing to the Lord!

Declare God's glory among all peoples.
All the Earth sing to the Lord!

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
All the Earth sing to the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(Pause for a brief silence.)

P: ...Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Jesus our Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem.

We thank you for coming into our world as a sign of God's love for us, and to show us the way through the darkness, through death, and beyond into your heavenly kingdom.

As we celebrate your birth this season,

We praise you for coming to love us.

Jesus our Christ, the King of Kings.

You came into the world to atone for our fall. As an infant you carried the weight of the world on your shoulders perfectly, never erring, and never faltering. You came to set all things right, and begin a new creation in you.

As we celebrate your birth this season,

We praise you for coming to forgive us.

Jesus our Christ, the Word made Flesh.

Your life is truly the greatest gift. By your life we see the way to God almighty, following you through our fears, missteps, and insecurities, as you lead us to the Father's house.

For the path you show us; your victory over death; and your complete care of the creation,

We praise you for coming to save us.

Holy Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, through your life, teachings, and resurrection you not only brought the words of the prophets to life, but also bring them into our world; in the cry of an infant, the anxiety of a parent, and a still silent night waiting for the Son to come.

Help us to wrestle with your timeless wisdom as we seek to better understand God through you.

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all the joy and peace of believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Call To Worship (Adapted from Psalm 147)

Worship the Lord!

Worship the Lord who strengthens us!

God has established peace for all peoples.

Worship the Lord who strengthens us!

God has provided; we want for nothing.

Worship the Lord who strengthens us!

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel - John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(Pause for a brief silence.)

P: ...Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Jesus our Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem.

We thank you for coming into our world as a sign of God's love for us, and to show us the way through the darkness, through death, and beyond into your heavenly kingdom.

As we celebrate your birth this season,

We praise you for coming to love us.

Jesus our Christ, the King of Kings.

You came into the world to atone for our fall. As an infant you carried the weight of the world on your shoulders perfectly, never erring, and never faltering. You came to set all things right, and begin a new creation in you.

As we celebrate your birth this season,

We praise you for coming to forgive us.

Jesus our Christ, the Word made Flesh.

Your life is truly the greatest gift. By your life we see the way to God almighty, following you through our fears, missteps, and insecurities, as you lead us to the Father's house.

For the path you show us; your victory over death; and your complete care of the creation,

We praise you for coming to save us.

Holy Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, through your life, teachings, and resurrection you not only brought the words of the prophets to life, but also bring them into our world; in the cry of an infant, the anxiety of a parent, and a still silent night waiting for the Son to come.

Help us to wrestle with your timeless wisdom as we seek to better understand God through you.

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The God of hope fill us with all the joy and peace of believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Call To Worship (Adapted from Psalm 29)

Hear the voice of the Lord!

The voice of the Lord is marvelous.

The voice of the Lord bursts forth lightning!

The voice of the Lord is marvelous.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness and the seas!

The voice of the Lord is marvelous.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

Musical Offering

Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

(Pause for a brief silence.)

P: ...Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made Flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

May the God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name, Father, Son, † Holy Spirit
bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 19, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 36)

How priceless is the Lord's love.

We take refuge in the Lord's shadow.

Because of the Lord, we feast abundantly.

We take refuge in the Lord's shadow.

We see in the Lord's light;

We take refuge in the Lord's shadow.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

We give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Gospel - John 2:1-11

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Proclamation of the Light

Almighty God, eternal three-in-one, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus' glory was revealed to all who were there. Help us to see the glory of Jesus revealed in our lives too. Keep us vigilant for your activity in the world, that we may see your deeds of power, and share the message of your love with all that we meet.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Holy God, throughout this season of Epiphany your light shines on so many; Simeon and Anna, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John. So to shine your light on us, illumine our paths that we may follow Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Throughout this season we hear of Jesus reading and consulting the words of the Old Testament. Let us also turn our attention to the words of the scriptures that have been passed down through the generations, may they continue to be a light unto our path.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

May the God of faith bless you with the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 26, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 19)

The heavens declare the glory of the Lord.

O Lord, you are my strength and my redeemer.

The testimony of the Lord gives wisdom and comfort to all.

O Lord, you are my strength and my redeemer.

Let the words of my mouth be pleasing to the Lord.

O Lord, you are my strength and my redeemer.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

We give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Proclamation of the Light

Almighty God, eternal three-in-one, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus’ glory was revealed to all who were there. Help us to see the glory of Jesus revealed in our lives too. Keep us vigilant for your activity in the world, that we may see your deeds of power, and share the message of your love with all that we meet.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Holy God, throughout this season of Epiphany your light shines on so many; Simeon and Anna, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John. So to shine your light on us, illumine our paths that we may follow Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Throughout this season we hear of Jesus reading and consulting the words of the Old Testament. Let us also turn our attention to the words of the scriptures that have been passed down through the generations, may they continue to be a light unto our path.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

May the God of faith bless you with the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go. Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 12, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 71)

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge.
Deliver me and save me, O Lord.

Be my rock and my stronghold.
Deliver me and save me, O Lord.

You are my hope and my confidence.
Deliver me and save me, O Lord.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
We give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 4:21-30

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Proclamation of the Light

Almighty God, eternal three-in-one, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus’ glory was revealed to all who were there. Help us to see the glory of Jesus revealed in our lives too. Keep us vigilant for your activity in the world, that we may see your deeds of power, and share the message of you love with all that we meet.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Holy God, throughout this season of Epiphany your light shines on so many; Simeon and Anna, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John. So to shine your light on us, illumine our paths that we may follow Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Throughout this season we hear of Jesus reading and consulting the words of the Old Testament. Let us also turn our attention to the words of the scriptures that have been passed down through the generations, may they continue to be a light unto our path.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

May the God of faith bless you with the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 138)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart.
Great is the glory of the Lord.

When I call, the Lord answers.
Great is the glory of the Lord.

When I am in trouble, the Lord keeps me safe.
Great is the glory of the Lord.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
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Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
We give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

Prayer of the Day

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Sermon

Musical Offering

Proclamation of the Light

Almighty God, eternal three-in-one, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus' glory was revealed to all who were there. Help us to see the glory of Jesus revealed in our lives too. Keep us vigilant for your activity in the world, that we may see your deeds of power, and share the message of you love with all that we meet.

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Lord's Prayer

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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.

Sending

May the God of faith bless you with the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 1)

Happy are those who know righteousness.
Happy are those who delight in the Lord.

The righteous are firmly rooted in the Lord's ways.
Happy are those who delight in the Lord.

Those dwelling in the Lord promote prosperity.
Happy are those who delight in the Lord.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
We give you thanks for the gift of baptism.

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

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

Proclamation of the Light

Almighty God, eternal three-in-one, at a wedding in Cana, Jesus' glory was revealed to all who were there. Help us to see the glory of Jesus revealed in our lives too. Keep us vigilant for your activity in the world, that we may see your deeds of power, and share the message of your love with all that we meet.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Holy God, throughout this season of Epiphany your light shines on so many; Simeon and Anna, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John. So to shine your light on us, illumine our paths that we may follow Christ our Lord.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Throughout this season we hear of Jesus reading and consulting the words of the Old Testament. Let us also turn our attention to the words of the scriptures that have been passed down through the generations, may they continue to be a light unto our path.

Jesus Christ our Lord is the light in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it!

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

May the God of faith bless you with the joy and peace of believing.
Go in peace, make peace wherever you go. Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Prayer for the Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 27)

Commit your way to the Lord.
Let us see what God will do!

Be still for the Lord and wait patiently.
Let us see what God will do!

All evildoers will be cut off, but all in God will be rescued.
Let us see what God will do!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
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 your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
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To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Gospel - Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Sermon

Musical Offering

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