

January 29, 2023
4th Sunday after Epiphany



THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN
DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT

Light



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #24

“Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

G **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

G Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 22:22, 27-31

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

G **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.**

P For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

G **All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.**

P Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

G **They shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

G **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Matthew 4:12-23

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- ¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ¹⁸ While walking 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. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

1 John 2:3-11

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. ⁷ Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸ At the same time, it is a new

commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that
 Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #512

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. ⁵ For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Light that Never Goes Out

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- ✪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #106:1-5

"The People that in Darkness Sat"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: WS #773

"Rise, Shine, You People"

KINSHIP Orphan – As a reminder, our congregation sponsors an orphan in Myanmar under the care of Pastor Kham. Due to the military coup in the country, life has been difficult for Pastor Kham, his 11 orphans, and millions more. What a privilege to be able to lend our support to one of these children during this time. Our sponsorship is \$540 per year. If you are able to contribute to this sponsorship, please do so in your offerings.

CLC Call News Pastor Andrew Schaller of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI, **has accepted** the call to Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Pastor David Ude of Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI, **is still considering** the call to serve the vacancy at Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac, WI <> Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ **is still considering** the call to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA and Redemption Lutheran Church and School, Lynwood, WA. <> Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WI, **is still considering** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI.

Surgery Success – Cindy underwent knee replacement surgery on Monday, and, after being kept in the hospital for several days, she arrived home on Friday. Praise the Lord for his care for Cindy and her surgeons. Please pray that the Lord would continue to grant her healing over the next several months.

<u>January 22nd Offerings:</u>	\$ 1,486.50
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,661.54
General Fund Balance	\$21,243.17
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$30,382.75
Total Cash All Funds	\$66,961.76

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Jan.30 – Feb. 4, '23

Mon Matthew 7:24-29 Jesus closes His "Sermon on the Mount" with a call to hear and follow His words. It is a matter of standing or falling when the rain, floods, and winds beat against us. The crowds are astonished at His authoritative teaching, and we behold the glory of the Word made flesh (Jn1:14).

Tues Romans 8:1-9 Walking according to our sinful flesh leads to death, but the Spirit who testifies of Jesus Christ leads to life. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God (v8), but there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (v1).

Wed Ezekiel 33:10-16 The prophet is sent with a message for those who see the terrible spot their sins have put them in: turn to me and live! It is not our righteous acts that save us when we sin, but our Savior God who has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (v11).

Thurs John 5:39-47 Jesus speaks to those who refuse to come to Him (v40), who will not believe His words (v47). They do not see His glory because His glory does not come from people (v41). They claim to follow Moses, but if they did they would also follow Him of whom Moses wrote (v46).

Fri 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 When God gave the Law through Moses, he returned with a glorified face. The glory of the Law, however, was only for a time, but the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ far outshines the fading glory of Moses. And we all, with unveiled face, behold the glory of the Lord (v18).

Sat Exodus 3:1-6 The Lord appeared to Moses in a burning bush to make him leader of the Children of Israel. It was an awesome sight and a great calling. But Moses, who would lead the exodus of his people from Egyptian bondage would still depend on the exodus that Jesus would lead (Lk9:31) out of sin, death, and hell.