

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube (Trinity LutheranSparta)

**Our worship service will also be recorded
and will be available on our website www.tlcsparta.org**



Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Special Music: Bell Choir

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***Opening Hymn: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

ELW 284

***Greeting**

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

Kyrie

For when we have not loved you with our whole heart, Lord have mer - cy on

us. For when we did not feed you, clothe you, or in-vite you in, Christ have mer -

cy on us. For when we did not seek your word, or withheld our thanks and

praise, Lord have mer - cy on us. For when we have not loved our

neigh-bors as our-selves, Christ have mer - cy on us.

*Hymn of Praise

Gloria

Glo-ry to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God,
heavenly King, Al-migh-ty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Jesus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. For you a-lone are the
Holy One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ with the
Ho - ly Spirit in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

*Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise
endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

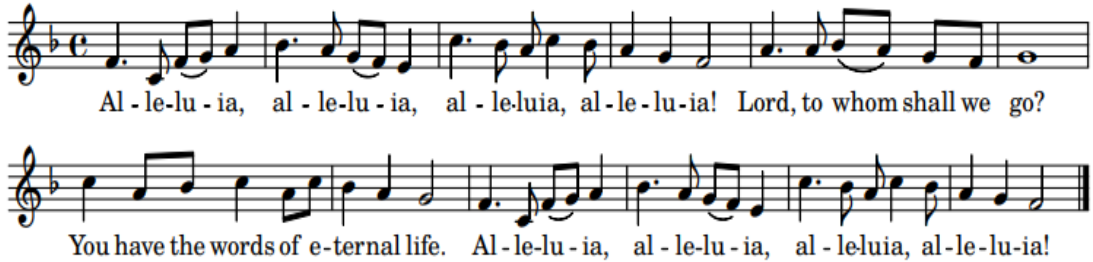
⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

***Gospel Acclamation**

Gospel Acclamation



This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: There is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

***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 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**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you

Offering – “*Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have.*” (Hebrews 13:5)

***Offertory:** *We Are an Offering*

ELW 692

***Offering Prayer**

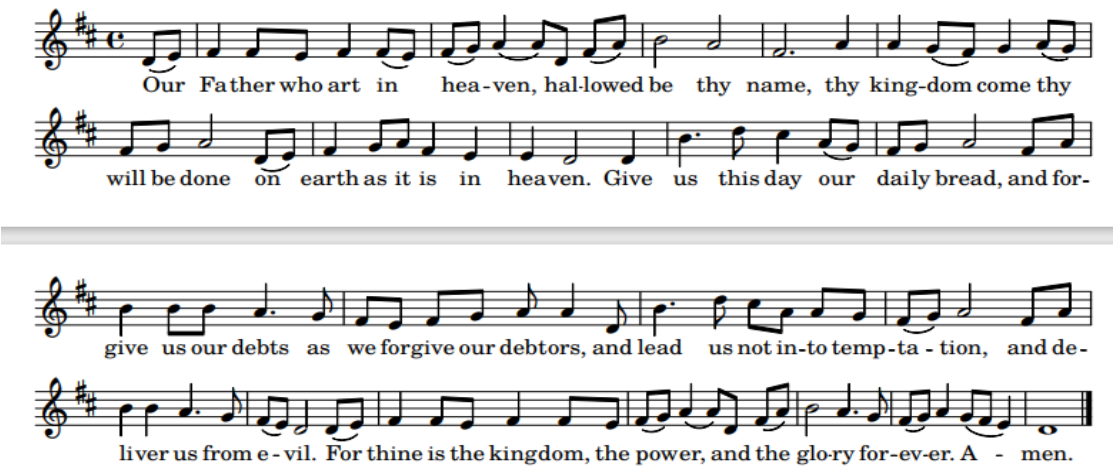
Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that

all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer**

Lord's Prayer (Traditional)



Our Father who art in hea-ven, hal-lowed be thy name, thy king-dom come thy
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and for-

give us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, and de-
liver us from e - vil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glo-ry for-ev-er. A - men.

* Symbol indicates a time when the congregation stands

The Final Blessing: Love as we Serve

May the God of hope fill you with all joy. May the
God of peace keep your hearts and minds in the love of God.
May the God of love. co-ver you with heal-ing. May the
God of jus - tice strengthen you to serve with glad - ness.
May our lives be an of-fer-ing of love as we serve. We've been
fed; may we feed oth - ers, and give wel - come to all.
And the bles - sing of God, Cre - a - tor, Redeem - er, Sus - tain - er,
be up - on you now and al - ways.

*Sending Hymn: Let The Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Attendance for Sunday, January 21, 2024 – 137

<u>January 28, 2024</u>	<u>February 4, 2024</u>
Greeters:	Greeters: Phil & Diane Dammen
Reader: Gladden & Guthrie Gasner	Reader: Wyatt Tripp
No communion	Communion: Larry & Nila Larson and Alice Olson
Music: Adell Morton	Music: Adell Morton
Coffee Fellowship: Brittany & Matt Michalski	Coffee Fellowship: Opportunity to serve
Flower Pick Up – Friday, Feb. 2: Dennis & Carol Glaman	Flower Pick Up – Friday, Feb. 9: Dennis & Carol Glaman
Pew Restocking – Month of Jan: Steve & Judy Bernett	Pew Restocking – Month of Feb: Karen Edward
Money Counting – January 29: Rita Bernette-Bill McClain-Alton Ask	Money Counting – February 5: Linda Winterton-Dave Olson-Diane Dammen
Altar Team – Month of Jan.: Siri Donskey & Carol Glaman	Altar Team – Month of Feb.: Pauline Haug & Siri Donskey
Food Pantry: January 31: Les and Linda Mull	Food Pantry: February 7: Les Stanley and Sharon Nelson
Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery February 2: Morrow Home: Connie Jerome Rolling Hills: Ron & Pauline Haug	Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery February 9: Morrow Home: Doug Dengel Rolling Hills: Cynthia Lockington