



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

(The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude *Wexford Carol*

trad. Irish arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

Ring of the Bell (*please remain seated*)



Photograph by Matthew Collamer on Unsplash.

Artist Statement: *I met Michael in a Boston subway station. I told him I liked his sign. “What matters is what it means to you,” he told me. I asked what it meant to him. “Doing a deed or expressing kindness to another person without expecting anything in return,” Michael said. I love approaching strangers wherever I go. Listening and talking to them teaches you about people and how similar we all are to one another. Just like Michael, we’re all seeking human kindness.*

+Gathering Hymn: *ELW 737 He Comes to Us as One Unknown (vv. 1, 4, 5)*

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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+Greeting

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

+Call to Worship

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the living God."

C: This is the day when we rejoice in God's act of creation.

L: This is our Sabbath; when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

C: We give thanks that once more, God has brought us together, that we might be refreshed in God's grace.

L: Peace to all who gather here,

C: Peace to all who long for God's mercy!

+Call to Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

L: The apostle Paul says:

“I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me.”

Is it possible to claim these words as our own and repeat them as our words?

Let's have a time of silence where we think about these words and their place in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Silence for self reflection

L: Let us pray: Merciful God, we hear these words of Paul, and know that his life was spent living and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ not only to the people of his day, but to people in every age since. He could invite people not only to do as he said, but to do as he did.

When we are happy to tell others to do as we say, but want the freedom to do as we choose, even if that means surrendering some of our Christian values;

C: Forgive us, O God.

L: When we look to others than Jesus Christ as the source of our standards;

C: Forgive us, O God.

L: When Jesus weeps over our behaviour even as he wept over Jerusalem;

C: Forgive us, O God.

L: God of grace and truth, we remember Jesus' commitment to grace and love for all people. Empower us with the Holy Spirit to deepen our commitment to follow Jesus, even when that means being ridiculed or persecuted, or sharing in the struggles and sufferings of others. This we pray in Jesus' name.

C: Amen

L: Hear the good news:

Those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God to whom we have been reconciled through Christ.

And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

+Prayer of the Day

L: Holy God,

C: you reveal yourself to us in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Help us to shine that light in all we say and do in this world, and help us to see that light in all those we meet along our journey. In Jesus' name we pray. C: Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40:3-5

³ A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

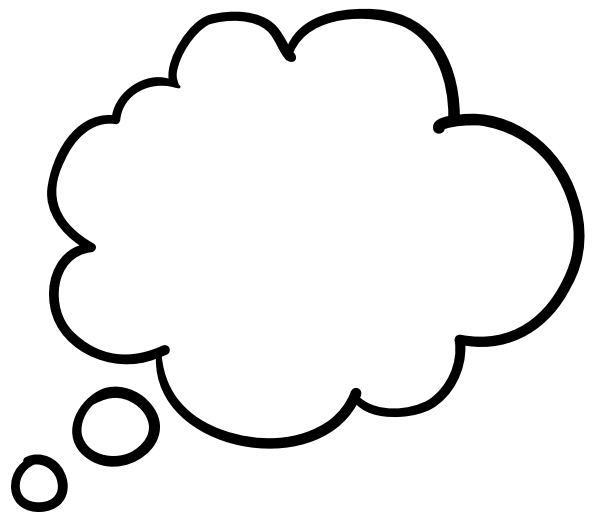
¹⁸ **I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;^[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,^[b] we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there^[c] is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!^[d] ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[e] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

L: Word of God, Word of Life: **C: Thanks be to God!**



+Gospel Acclamation: ELW 288 (v. 3)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

+Gospel: John 13:31-34

L: The Gospel according to John the thirteenth chapter. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When [Judas] had gone out [from the Last Supper], Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

L: The Good News of God. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated

Sermon: ...So That All Would Encounter Christ in Each Person

Hymn: *ELW 574 Here I am, Lord*

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

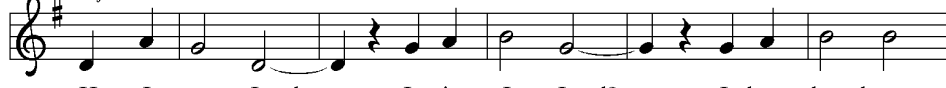


I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
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+Apostle's 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.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession:

L: God of all, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

Peace: L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

Offering *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

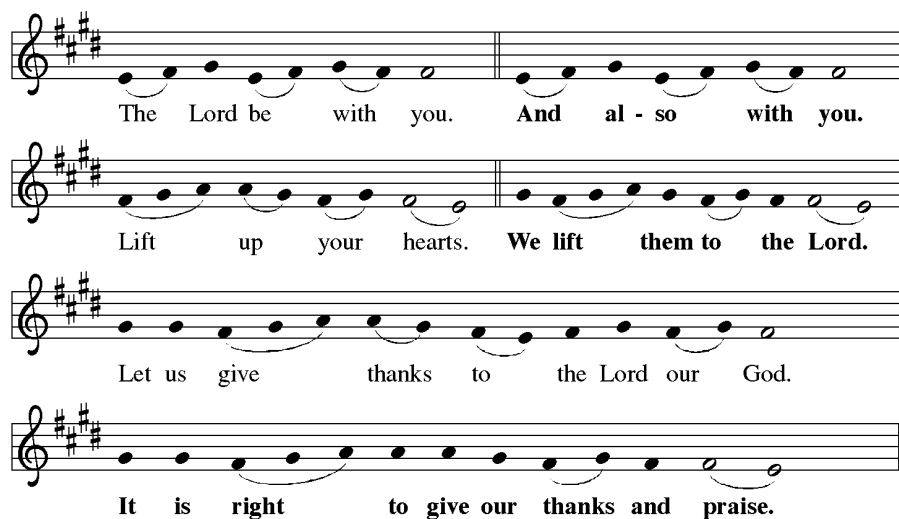
trad. Spiritual arr. H. Brinson

Offering Prayer

L: Lord God, every gift comes from you. May your blessings of wealth and security lead us not to arrogant pride but to humble gratitude. May our gratitude for your gifts lead us not to clutch them tightly, but to open our hands and freely share them with love. May all that we offer be gifts that connect us to one another for the sake of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

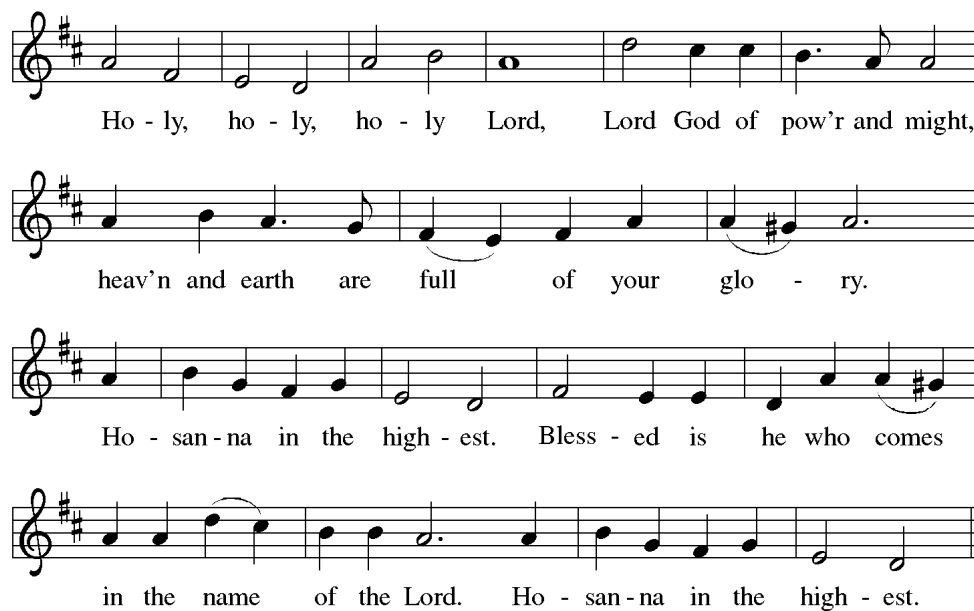


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should, at all times, and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God...we **stand** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... *(please stand)*

+Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

+Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer

**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

L: In this meal, we are connected to God's grace and mercy. Come, take your place at the table.

(You may be seated)

Communion



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music during Distribution

Hymn: *ELW 471 Let Us Break Bread Together*

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The vocal line has a similar rhythmic pattern, and the piano accompaniment maintains its harmonic support.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a vocal line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature remains two flats. The vocal line starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system concludes the piece with a vocal line in treble clef and piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line has a similar rhythmic pattern, and the piano accompaniment maintains its harmonic support.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

+Prayer after Communion

L: God of dreams, God of Vision, thank you for welcoming us at your table and feeding us with the best of who you are. Strengthened by these gifts, lead us with confidence to the plans you have for us in the days and weeks ahead. With joy-filled souls we pray,

C: Amen.

Sending

+Blessing

L: As we leave this place, let us not forget:

Everywhere we go, God goes before us.

From the farthest ocean to the highest mountain,
from the heights of joy to the depths of despair—
wherever we find ourselves, God is already there
surrounding you with mercy and guiding you with love.

So go with joy and confidence, knowing that God goes with you.

C: Amen.



+Hymn: ELW 677 This Little Light of Mine

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude *Praeludium (Holberg's Suite)*

Edvard Grieg

Worship Participants

Presider/Preacher: Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians: Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist Roselyn Hanson Weber
Special Music: HOP Adult Choir
Lector/Intercessor: Paul Danielson
Communion Servers: Pastor Eric, Monica Nelson, Paul and Sue Danielson
Ushers: Steve and Ann Barnes, Wayne Peterson
AV Engineer: Ethan Alberg



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

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For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,
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