

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

This season is the "Time after Epiphany" and uses the color green for its symbolism of our growth in Christ. Green is used as a neutral color when more festive or more somber colors are not appointed.



## Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

*“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”*

Worship 9:00 a.m.

*Bold type indicates Congregational responses*

### **Introduction**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

**Prelude** “Come Holy Spirit”..... Gaither/Court  
“Spirit of the Living God” ..... /Curnow

### **Announcements**

**Call to Worship** “This Little Light of Mine” ..... arr. by William Moats

### **Ringling of the Bell**

**\*Gathering Song:** “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” ..... ELW 717

**\*Greeting**

P: 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.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*All*



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
 2. (You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
 3. (Re) - freshed by sab - bath rest this day, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
 Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now for  
 wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ's un -



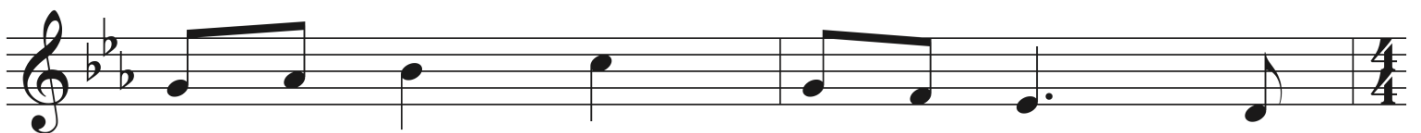
on our life, and all cre - a - tion sings your  
 each new day, our un - known guest, our host and  
 fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
 feast. Grant those who share this ho - ly meal the  
 home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly - breath, and  
 faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that  
 sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -  
 hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by  
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2. You  
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re  
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem "Micah 6:8" ..... arr. Jon Novak**

***First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8***

L: Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31***

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

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

**\*Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children’s Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

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***Installation of Council Members***

***\*The Apostles' Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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***

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

*A brief silence.*

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice.

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. We especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we hold and lift up to you in our hearts now...  
Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

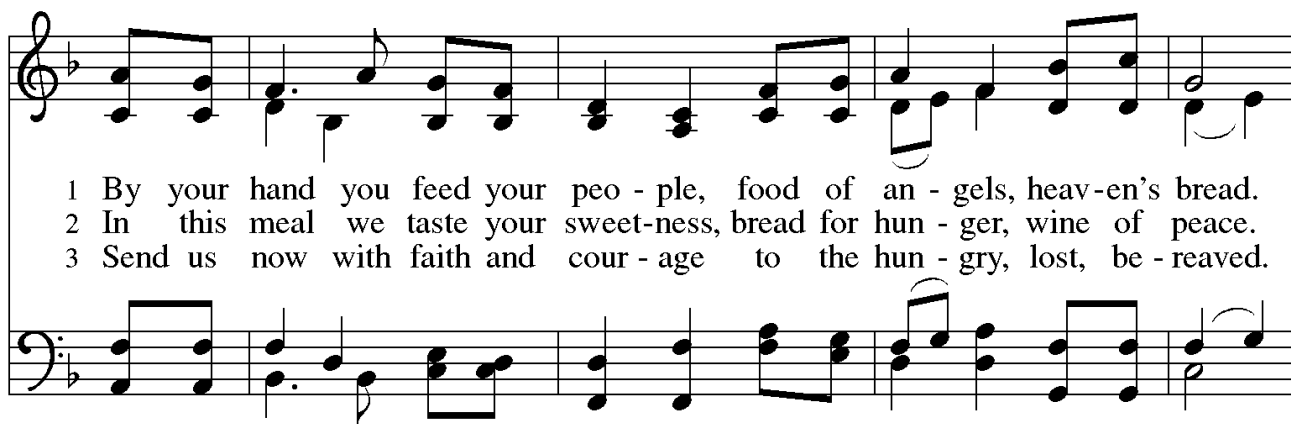
### **Offering**

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*



## Offertory

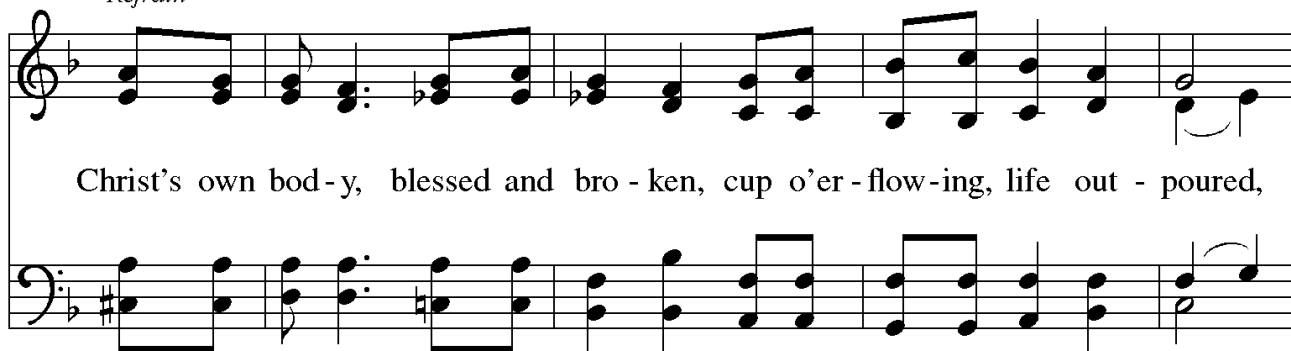


1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

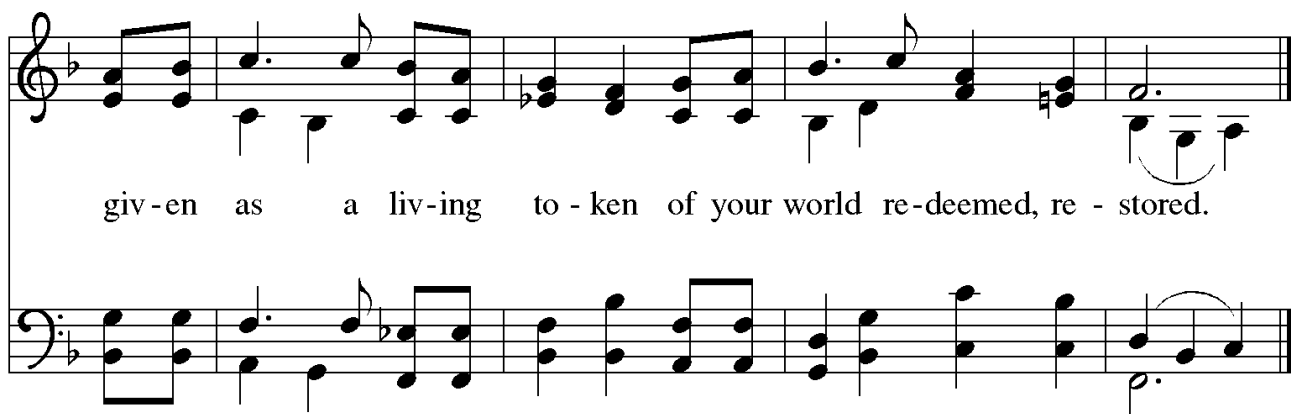


For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

### *Refrain*



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful; you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger that all may know your care. Prepare us now to feast upon your mercy: Jesus Christ, the bread of life.**

**Amen.**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving**

*Presider* *All*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider* *All*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### ***\*Words of Institution***

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future. We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

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

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.  
**Amen.**

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

*Please be seated.*

### ***Communion Invitation***

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome.

**Lamb of God**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Communion**

**Distribution Music** “Let Us Break Bread Together” ...../Redhead

**\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Creator of our days and nights, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us when we struggle and doubt and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light.

**Amen.**

**\*Benediction**

P: Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, ✠ and give you peace this day and always.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve” ..... ELW 551

***\*Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Ringling of the Bell***

***Postlude*** “*When the Spirit Says Sing*” ..... /Bullas

**Unfailing Light Liturgy**

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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**By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

Text: Susan R. Briehl

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen

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