**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 4, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty ELW 858**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

creator of darkness and light,

word of truth,

wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**

**dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God’s beloved.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC This Little Light of Mine ELW 677 (v. 1)**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

 21Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
 22It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;
 23who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
 24Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
 25To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
 26Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.
 27Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
 “My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?
 28Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
 29He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
 30Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
 31but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 147:1-11, 20c**

1Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
  How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!
 2**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,**
  **and gathers the exiles of Israel.**
 3The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
 4**The Lord counts the number of the stars** **and calls them all by their names.**
 5Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
  there is no limit to God’s wisdom.
 6**The Lord lifts up the lowly,**
  **but casts the wicked to the ground.**
 7Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
  make music upon the harp to our God,
 8**who covers the heavens with clouds**
 **and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**
 9God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.
 10**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,**
  **and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**
 11but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord,
  in those who await God’s steadfast love. 20cHallelujah!

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

16If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! 17For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.
 19For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Come and See ACS 976**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

29As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.
 35In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” 38He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” 39And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843**

**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 power of 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**

…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.**

 **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in February****(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Ronald McDonald House.*** *Provide lodging and support to parents and guardians of children being treated at the Marshfield Children's Hospital.*

**OFFERING HYMN When We Are Living ELW 639**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table,

that we receive what we seek

and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW 189**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which 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 the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Giver of every gift,

Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body.

Raise us to life by your power

for the benefit of all and to your glory,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God who names you,

Christ who claims you,

and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

☩ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN On Eagle’s Wings ELW 787**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | **Deep Clean** |
| February, 4 | Ed & Ruth Raatz | Laurel Peterson | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis | February: |
| February, 11 | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Nancy Tibbett | Christopher StuttgenDanielle Stuttgen | Pam Mundt | May Hill | Dave & Sue Schraeder |
| February, 18 | Brett & Breanna Butler | Julie Will | Matt & Margo Berrier | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill | Andrea Hovick |
| February, 25 | Dan & Pam Mundt | Christine Tipping | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Nancy Leonard | Beanna Butler |  |

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| Sunday, February 4 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School• Fifth Sunday after Epiphany• Mark 1:29-39; the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law |
| Tuesday, February 6 | 6:30 pm | Executive Committee Meeting |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, February 7 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (discuss Season 2 Episode 4 of “The Chosen”) |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek WorshipConfirmation Class |
| Sunday, February 11 | 9:00 am | Worship Service• Transfiguration of Our Lord• Mark 9:2-9; revelation of Christ as God’s beloved Son |

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