



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

January 19th, 2025
2nd Sunday after Epiphany

11721 Morrison Rd. | New Orleans, LA | 70128
Pastor Daniel Kramer | crownoflifepastor@gmail.com
(504)595-0373 | (504)354-1999



A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 220

What Child Is This

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation says: And also with you.

-Introduction to Worship-

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: 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.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. 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: Forgive my sins and change my life.

We sing:

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always living in me!

M: Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

We sing:

No Other Name But the Name of Jesus

Chorus: No other name, but the name of Jesus
No other name, but the name of the Lord
No other name but the name of Jesus
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;
His name is high above the heavens.
His name is exalted far above the earth;
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

Chorus

-We Pray Together-

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

C: The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 62:1-5

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.

But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the LORD will take delight in you,

and your land will be married.

⁵ As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

We Sing:

Thy Word

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way
Still, You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be with me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people,

to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

John 2:1-11

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

¹¹ What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 91

The Star Proclaims the King is Here

SERMON

How Can You Measure God's Love?

Ephesians 3:14-21

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

AMEN

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Christian Worship 83 (v1, 3, 4)
As With Gladness Men of Old

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

THE SACRAMENT

M: Our Lord has given us a holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of His redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim His death until He returns.

C: Now have come the salvation and the power and kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

We sing:

Blessed Be The Lord God Almighty

Refrain: Blessed be the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come.
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty
Who reigns forevermore.

Father in heaven, how we love you;
We lift your name in all the earth.
May Your kingdom be established in our praises,
as your people declare Your mighty works.

Refrain

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

C: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

FOR ALL OF US: Paul instructed in I Cor. 11:28: "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." Questions like these help us examine ourselves:

- Am I sorry for my sin?
- Do I trust that Jesus has lived and died to save me from my sin?
- Do I believe that Jesus's body and blood are truly present to assure me of forgiveness?

- Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God pleasing life?

*WELS and ELS members may come and receive Christ's body and blood.
Proceed up the center aisle as directed by the ushers.*

FOR OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS: *You may find that we regard Holy Communion with much greater seriousness than most churches today. The Bible teaches that communion is, among other things, a public statement of intimate unity and spiritual agreement with a church's teachings. Therefore, if you are unaware or unclear about what we teach and believe, you will want to compare your own beliefs with ours before communing with us. We are eager to establish this fellowship with you and look forward to your inquiry on how to enter into fellowship! Pastor Kramer is happy and ready to speak with you!*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Christian Worship 313

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

THANKSGIVING HYMN

I Exalt Thee

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

For thou O Lord, art high above all the earth
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord
I exalt thee, I exalt thee, I exalt thee, O Lord.

C: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in His true body and blood the pledge of Your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN

Christian Worship 79

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Update on California fires – Jan. 13, 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

I want to give you another update on the situation in California. I spoke with Pastor Steve Gabb of Hope Lutheran in Los Angeles this morning. So far, our congregations and members in the LA area are safe from the fires. We thank God for this good news!

Pastor Gabb and the members of Hope are working with other community organizations to aid those displaced by the fires. They are basing their efforts at the Hope Lutheran campus. WELS Christian Aid and Relief has provided grants totaling \$6,000 to be used to purchase gift cards and other supplies to share with those in need.

I have also authorized a gift of \$5,000 to Direct Relief, an organization that specializes in medical assistance in disaster situations. You can learn more about what they do by visiting directrelief.org.

If you would like to support our efforts in the LA area, please visit wels.net/cargift and designate your gift for disaster relief. You can also mail a check to:

WELS Christian Aid and Relief
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Please pray for all those impacted by this fire: displaced people, firefighters and other first responders, volunteers, and government leaders. They all have a lot on their plate. Pray also for our WELS brothers and sisters in LA who are sharing the compassion of Christ in both words and actions.

Thanks so much for your prayers and your support! You are a blessing to so many!

In Christ our compassionate Savior,

Pastor Dan Sims
Director, WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Serving at CoL:	Today	Next Sunday
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Keith, Seth	<i>This Could Be You</i>
Reader		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Altar		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Cleaning		<i>This Could Be You</i>
Mowing		<i>This Could Be You</i>

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Thursday	10:30 AM Bible Class at Timeless Grace, Carriere, MS
Thursday	12:00 PM Confirmation Class, Picayune, MS
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Jan 26	Council Meeting
Feb 9	2024 Q4 Congregational Meeting

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget Met
Last Week	\$1,241.00	\$2,548.40	48.7%
January	\$4,937.02	\$11,043.08	44.7%
Qtr-to-Date	\$4,937.02	\$33,129.25	14.9%
Year-to-Date	\$4,937.02	\$132,517.00	3.7%



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*

