



**CROWN OF LIFE** | LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

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## **A Service of Worship and Praise**

### **We Gather in God's Name**

#### **Greeting**

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### **Christian Worship 353**

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

**Minister** says: We begin our worship in praise the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation** says: AMEN

### **We Prepare our Hearts**

**M:** As believers in Christ, we are called to repent of our sins and forgive one another. In the book of James, we are told, "Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for one another, so that you may be healed." As one body in Christ, we unite our hearts in prayer:

**C:** Lord, I pray to You because I am suffering. I have cut myself off from You and others by the sin in my life. I need Your forgiveness so that I may find healing for my wounded life and for the wounds I have caused others. Today, in the name of Jesus I pray, forgive me, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew my heart. AMEN.

**We sing:** *Change My Heart*

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

|: You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you. :|

**M:** We take comfort and find confidence in the words of Jesus, "He has sent me to announce forgiveness to the prisoners of sin and restore sight to the blind, to give mercy to those whose lives are shattered by sin, to announce the favor of the Lord." God gave His only son, Jesus, to die for our sins and rise from death to give us eternal life. We are forgiven. We live in the favor of the Lord.

**C:** AMEN.

**We sing:**

*Lord I Lift Your Name on High*

|: Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from Heaven to Earth to show the way;  
from the Earth to the Cross, my debt to pay;  
from the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift Your name on high. :|

### **WE PRAY TOGETHER**

**M:** Almighty God, you are eager to grant your goodness...

**C:** ...and joyful in sharing your grace.

**M:** You invite us into your presence...

**C:** ..to worship you with all our hearts.

**M:** Breathe your holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our tongues are eager to shout your praise!

**M:** Breathe your Holy Spirit on us...

**C:** ...so that our mouths are ready to proclaim the good news of Your Son.

**M:** Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** AMEN .

## **We Listen to God's Word**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

### **We sing:**

*Shine Jesus Shine*

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining.  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.  
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine! Fill this land with the Father's glory!  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze! Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow! Flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

## SECOND LESSON

*II Timothy 3:14-4:5*

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup> and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**4** In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

*PLEASE STAND*

## GOSPEL LESSON

*Luke 4:38-44*

<sup>38</sup> Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. <sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

<sup>40</sup> At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

<sup>41</sup> Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are



to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and 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**     **African-American Heritage Hymnal 396 (v1, 3, 4)**

*We Gather Together*

### **THE SACRAMENT**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus 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 the 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:**

*Glorify Thy Name*

Father, we love you; we worship and adore you.

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you; we worship and adore you.

Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love you; we worship and adore you.  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.  
Glorify thy name, glorify thy name,  
Glorify thy name in all the earth.

**M:** 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.

## **C: AMEN**

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 315**

*Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

## **THANKSGIVING:**

Give thanks with a grateful heart.

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

|: And now, let the weak say, "I am strong",

Let the poor say, "I am rich"

Because of what the Lord has done for us! :|

Give thanks!

**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.

## **PRAYERS AND LORD'S PRAYER**

## **BLESSING**

**M:** Brothers and Sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C:** AMEN

## **CLOSING HYMN**

### **African-American Heritage Hymnal 498**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

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### **Something new and exciting is coming!**

You have likely noticed that things which once were in books or in print are now moving to a digital or web-based platform.

Two weeks ago members from the Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH) group were able to bring to reality a project that has been several years in the making – an online Christian Sign Language Dictionary. The project is entitled “Gospel Hands” and can be found at [gospelhands.net](http://gospelhands.net). The MDHH team members spent significant time over two days signing and recording to video more than 900 religious sign language signs. It was intriguing to hear the discussion about what was the best sign and possible alternatives for a certain words or concepts. While the videos are still being edited and uploaded, it is exciting to see this effort finally coming to fruition.

This initial group of videos is only the beginning. There are plans to record more signs in the future and to keep growing this online resource.

Watch for more news in the coming weeks as the videos of these hundreds of signs are uploaded and we make this resource available publicly.

*Joel Gaertner, director, WELS Special Ministries*

## **Equip them!**

"Now what am I supposed to do?" There's more work than any called worker can ever do. There has to be! God's Word says that our Lord prepared good works for each of his people to do (Ephesians 2:10). Called workers were never intended to be Jesus' only servants. Those who try to take too much responsibility eventually hit a wall. They can't do more, yet more needs to be done. A child with Down's needs Sunday school. Grandpa loves to come to church but his hearing is so bad he gets nothing out of the sermon. Two members have been deployed and their families are struggling. "What am I supposed to do?"

The apostles set the example in Acts 6 (recruiting deacons) and gave us this advice: "Equip them!" The New Testament tells us that God calls workers to equip Christians for works of service (Ephesians 4:12). The pastor doesn't have to install a better sound system for those with hearing loss, but he may have to coach some members on the issues and needs and motivate them to do something about the sound system. The WELS teacher may observe the special needs of a small child; she may not become the child's teacher but may offer to coordinate the Sunday school teachers and parents until a plan is formed.

The Bible teaches that God has given different gifts to the various members of your church. How will those members use those gifts, if they are not equipped and given the opportunity to serve?

If equipping sounds like an added task on top of the already too-long list, consider this: Special Ministries can help ministry leaders equip Christians. Do you have a blind member? Several people with hearing loss? We can provide training for visitors to jails or help to mentor a member after release. We have resources for all kinds of challenging situations. Special Ministries can help equip God's people to serve in extraordinary ways.

"What am I supposed to do?" Contact Special Ministries to get help equipping others to serve those with unique needs!

<b>Serving at CoL:</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Sunday</b>
Music	Karis	Katherine
Ushers	Lee, Mike	Keith, Seth
Reader	Mike	Noah
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Carol	Barb
Cleaning	Virginia, Jake	Bob
Mowing	Bob	

**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
Feb 9	2024 Q4 Congregational Meeting

<b>OFFERING</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>%Budget Met</b>
Last Week	\$1,072.00	\$2,548.40	42.1%
January	\$10,558.02	\$11,043.08	95.6%
Qtr-to-Date	\$10,558.02	\$33,129.25	31.9%
Year-to-Date	\$10,558.02	\$132,517.00	8.0%



*"...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*

