# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024– 10:30 a.m. Lutheran Service Book, Holy Communion, Setting 2



# **Prayer before worship**

Lord God, You revealed Yourself through Jesus, the Messiah. As I come before You in worship this day, I humbly pray that You would open my heart and mind to Your Word, turn me from sin, and strengthen the light of Christ within me. Amen.

**Pre-Service Music** 

"Two settings of Beach Spring" (David Cherwien)

**Ringing of the Bells** 

Welcome

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

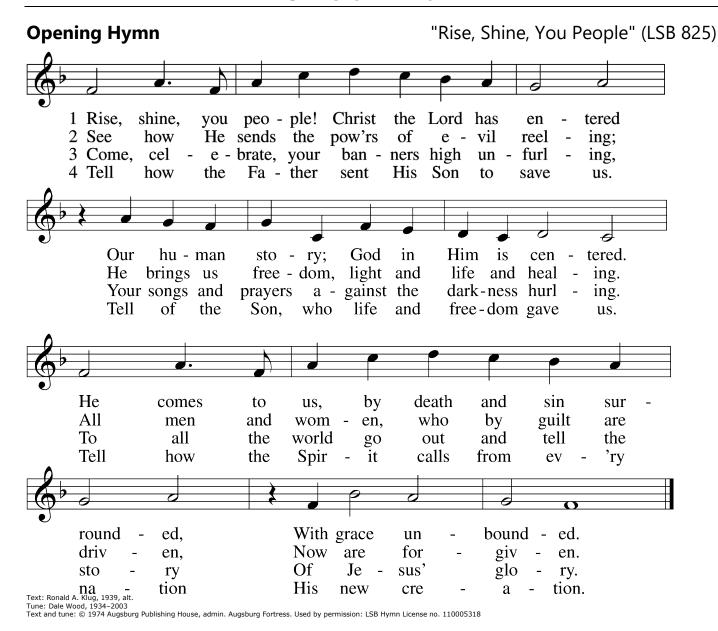
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

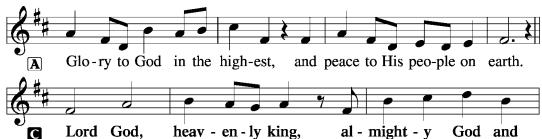
#### **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

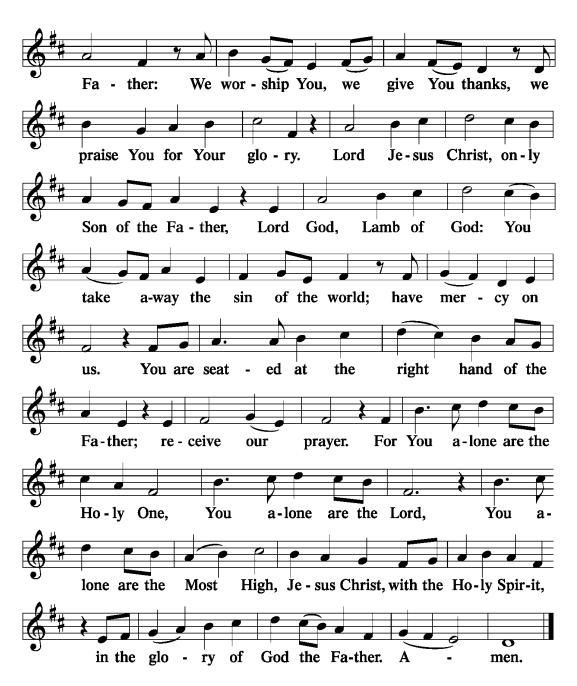


# Greeting

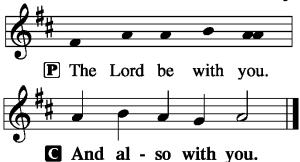
- P The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- C And also with you.







# **Salutation and Collect of the Day**



P Let us pray:

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

# Children's Message

### **Old Testament Reading**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup>"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— <sup>16</sup>just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' <sup>17</sup>And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. <sup>19</sup>And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 111

- Praise the LORD!
  I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart,\*
  in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.
- Great are the works | of the LORD,\* studied by all who de- | light in them.
- **L** Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,\* and his righteousness endures for- | ever.
- He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;\* the LORD is gracious and | merciful.
- L He provides food for those who | fear him;\* he remembers his covenant for- | ever.
- He has shown his people the power | of his works,\* in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.

- The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;\* all his precepts are | trustworthy;
- they are established forever and | ever,\* to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.
- L He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\* Holy and awesome | is his name!
- The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.\* His praise endures for- | ever!

**Epistle** 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

<sup>1</sup>Concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

<sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup>And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup>Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
  - **C** Thanks be to God.

#### **Alleluia and Verse**



Holy Gospel Mark 1:21-28

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

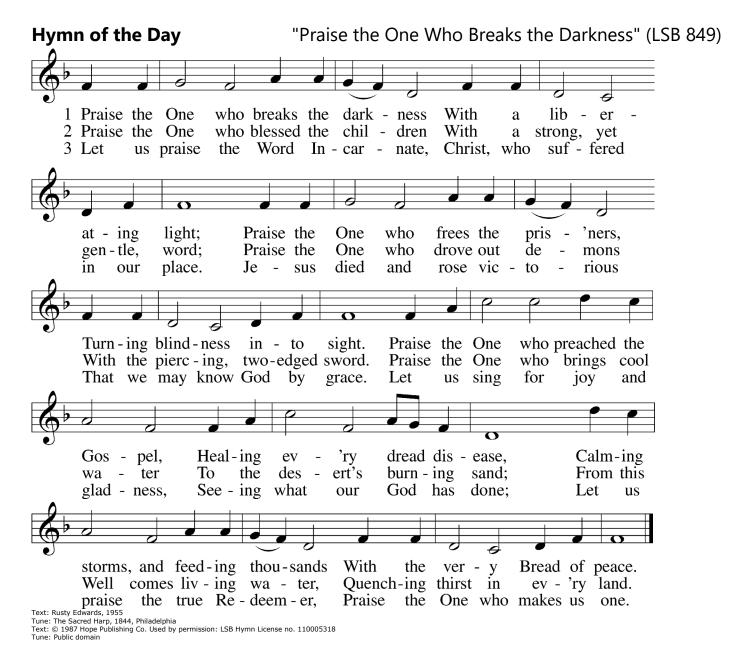


<sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. <sup>22</sup>And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup>"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon "I Know Who You Are"



#### **Profession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.

# **Prayer of the Church**

P Drawn to the light of Christ, made bold in the waters of Baptism, and filled with the Spirit, we lift up our prayers in confidence that God loves and listens to us.

Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words

"Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "hear our prayer."

The prayers conclude with:

- P Good and gracious God, we ask all these things and whatever else you see that we need with a sure and certain hope in your goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

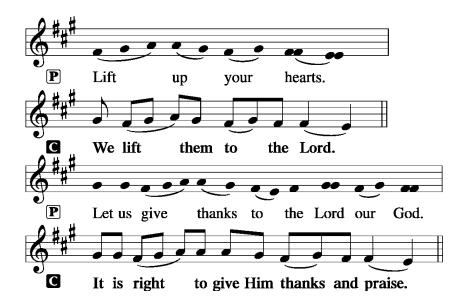
#### **Announcements**

# **Offertory Prayer**

- L Let us pray: Merciful God,
- In the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

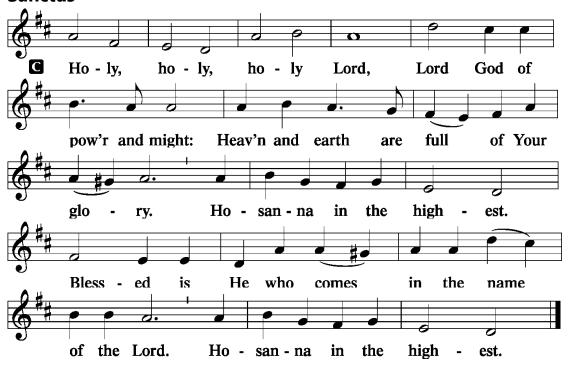
# P The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.



# **Preface for Epiphany**

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

#### **Sanctus**



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My → body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

# **G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

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.

#### **Pax Domini**

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

#### **Agnus Dei** $\mathbf{C}$ You take a-way the Lamb of God. sin of the world; Lamb of God, You take a-way the have mer-cv us. on sin of the world; have mer-cy Lamb of on us. God. You take a - way the sin of the world: grant grant us peace, us peace.

#### **Distribution**

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

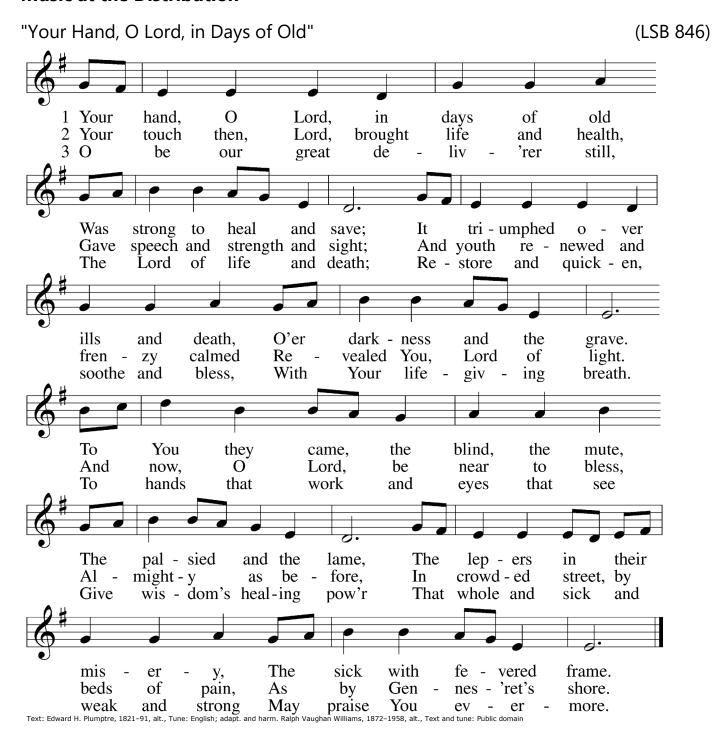
Please be seated

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by

individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament. For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

#### **Music at the Distribution**





Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958
Text and tune: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318



(LSB 628)



- 2 Lord, I con-fess my sins And mourn their wretch-ed bands;
- 3 Your bod y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me, 4 Search not how this takes place, This won-drous mys ter y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there. A con-trite heart is sure to find For - give-ness at Your hands. Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty. God can ac - com-plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
  To thank You day and night
  For Your true body and true blood,
  O God, my peace and light.

O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Dismissal**

#### **Post-Communion Canticle**



#### **Post-Communion Collect**

L Let us pray:

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# C Amen.

#### **Benediction**

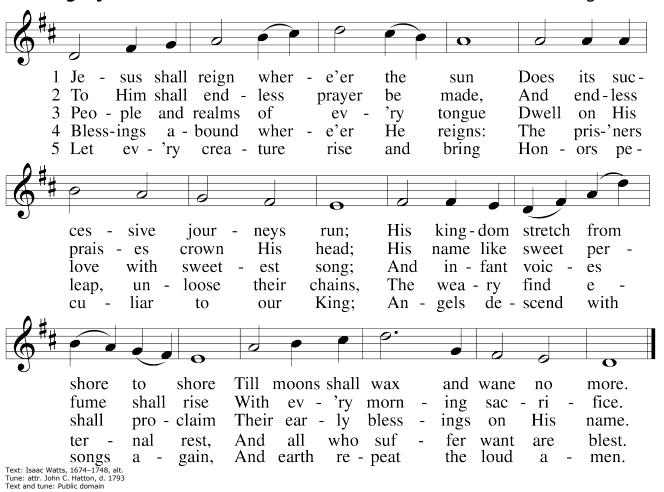
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

# C Amen.

# **Sending Hymn**

"Jesus Shall Reign" (LSB 832)



**Postlude** 

"Duke Street" (Charles Callahan)

+ + +

# **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher Pastor Meehan

Welcome & Children's Message Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship

Lay Assistant PJ Baunach

Communion Lay Assistant Mike Nordvall
Guest Organist/Pianist Lois Lehrer
Acolyte Gavin Stiens
Crucifer Olivia Holthoff

Ushers Angela Del Pielago

Arnaldo Del Pielago

Altar Care Andrea Godwin

AV Operators Gred Auld

Jurgen Gobien

Welcome Host Elizabeth Auld Nursery Janet Smith

+ + +

To **Give** to St. John's Lutheran Church scan this QR Code





# This weekend's **altar flowers** are given in honor of Angela Del Pielago for her Birthday and thanks God for her life.

+ + +

To **view** the current edition of our electronic weekly newsletter, **Midweek Update**, scan this QR Code



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To download our new SJLC app text "APP" or "App" or "app" to (877) 776-1304

# **Acknowledgments**

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# St. John's Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

# St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

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Director of Discipleship Jennifer Hills, DCE

Director of Music David Leahey

Office Administrator Michelle May

Finance Administrator Jennifer Smith

Communication Specialist Jacqueline Fuller

# **Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

Director of ECEC Amanda Parks

ECEC Administrator Kari Wells

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