

## AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

**THANK YOU** to Nancy Curtis for leading our music this morning, Dennis & Kitty Springer for worship team duties, and Jane Haugen for altar care.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

**You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name.  
You are mine.”

In Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**ELW #275**

**KYRIE**

**ELW p. 184**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**ELW p. 187**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10**

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

<sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup> **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

<sup>4</sup> **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup> **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother’s womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away

all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

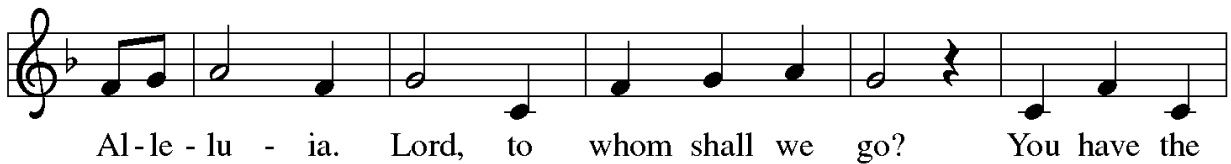
<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Melissa Johansen**

*What good news did you hear today?*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**ELW #490**

## **APOSTLE’S CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness: *Lynnette, Bea, Randy and Linda, Mike and Vicky, Carol, Holly, Anita, Mollie, Larry, Denice, Lana, and Karen.* Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. We pray for all those suffering devastating loss in California and elsewhere in the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Please stand.*

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and  
join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will  
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
 and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God  
 Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able;  
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these  
 your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body  
 and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy  
 people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.  
 To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### 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

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*The Gift of Love*

English Traditional

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen.**

### SENDING LITANY

*based on ALC's Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles*

We have gathered in joy, and now we are sent to embrace the world with God's love.

We ask God to help us continue to

**gather to be empowered by the Spirit for life's journey.**

Compel us to

**seek God's will through prayer, scripture study, and faith sharing.**

Give us courage to

**reach out and welcome all people with unconditional love.**

Inspire us to

**live with a generous spirit in our community and world.**

Help us

**serve our hurting world with love and compassion. Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**ELW #815**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Kathleen Thomerson

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