



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2023

6:00 PM

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Sortie” Douglas E. Wagner

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

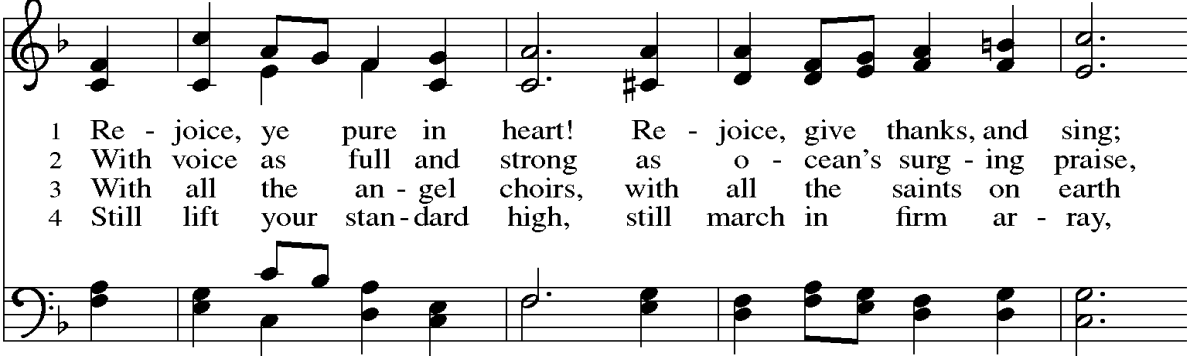
P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!” ELW #873, verses 1, 3, 4, 6




1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
Re - joice! Re - joice!

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt. Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916
Text and Music Public Domain

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

A Reading from 1 Corinthians the First Chapter

L: ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in

the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.



Music: Bob Moore, b. 1962
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
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GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew the Fifth Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

(Matthew 5:1-12)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND "NOISY" OFFERING

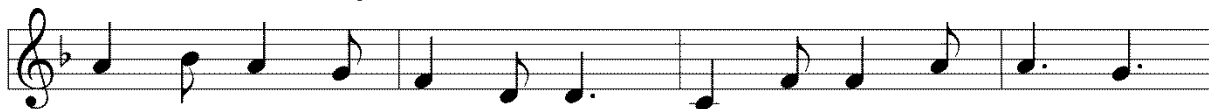
SERMON

Pastor Rick Carlson

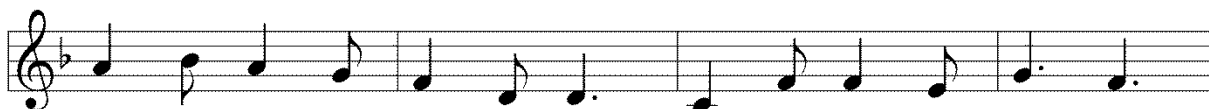
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW #335

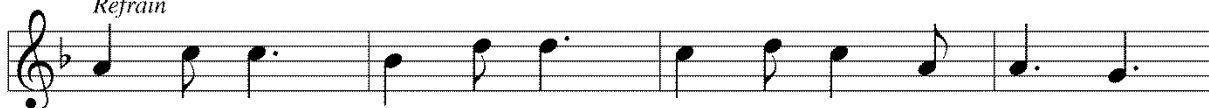


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

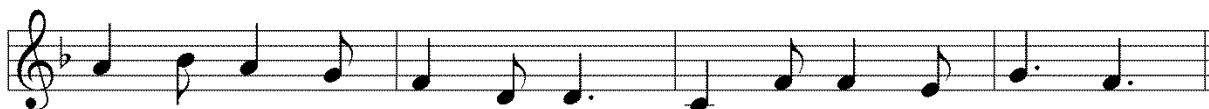


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and Morn - ing Star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ows o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915. Text and Music Public Domain

HOLY BAPTISM OF GRAYSON CHARLES SHIPP

INTRODUCTION

P: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

PRESENTATION

P: Who presents this child for Holy Baptism?

Sponsors: We present *Grayson Charles Shipp* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: As you bring *Grayson* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with *him* among God's faithful people,
bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten
Commandments,
place in *his* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,
so that *he* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Will you fulfill these promises?

Parents/Sponsors: We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us profess the faith in which we baptize today:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

BAPTISM

P: *Grayson Charles Shipp* is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Grayson*, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

P: *Grayson*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

PRAYER FOR PARENTS

P: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon Matthew and Shelby. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME

P: Members of First Lutheran, you have witnessed the Baptism of *Grayson*. Will you pray for him and share your faith with him? Will you remind him that he belongs to Christ and that as Christ's people we all belong to each other?

C: We will.

P: Then, welcome your new brother in the name of Jesus.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence for reflection

L: Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

L: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

L: You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

L: As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

L: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. We pray especially for....

Jim Anderson	Lynn McPheron
Brad Bigelow	Linda Miles
Bernie Bliefernich	Dick Mintling
Terry Buschelman	Elizabeth Muller
Janice Carnell	Niki Peterson
Gregory Carrico	Joe Rall
Dan Danielson	Betty Rickard
Heather Dederman	Stephanie Russman
Wayne Deterding	Michelle Sawicki
Tammy Edwards	Rhonda Schroeder
Helen Foos	Charlotte Sitorus
Kent Hawkinson	Chloe Spangler
Karen Hiskett	Carrie Stithem
Linda Holsten	Denise Studebaker
Shawn & Karen Kitzing	David & Alli Suing
Talia Krumbach	Jennifer Van Dyke
Lil Larson	Carl Weber
Larry McMaster	Patty Welch
	Misty White

Prayers of Comfort and Peace for:

- Family and friends of Marty Garringer on his death.
- Steve and Andrea Wolfe and family on the death of Steve's father, Robert Wolfe.

L: Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

L: Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

"Children of the Heavenly Father" Dan Forrest

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING RESPONSE

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the final two lines. The music is a simple, homophonic setting with a clear melody and accompaniment.

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be: All
2. May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive, And

that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
glad - ly as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give. A - men.

Text: William W. How. Music: Mason and Webb's Cantica Laudis, 1850
Text and Music Public Domain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: **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.**

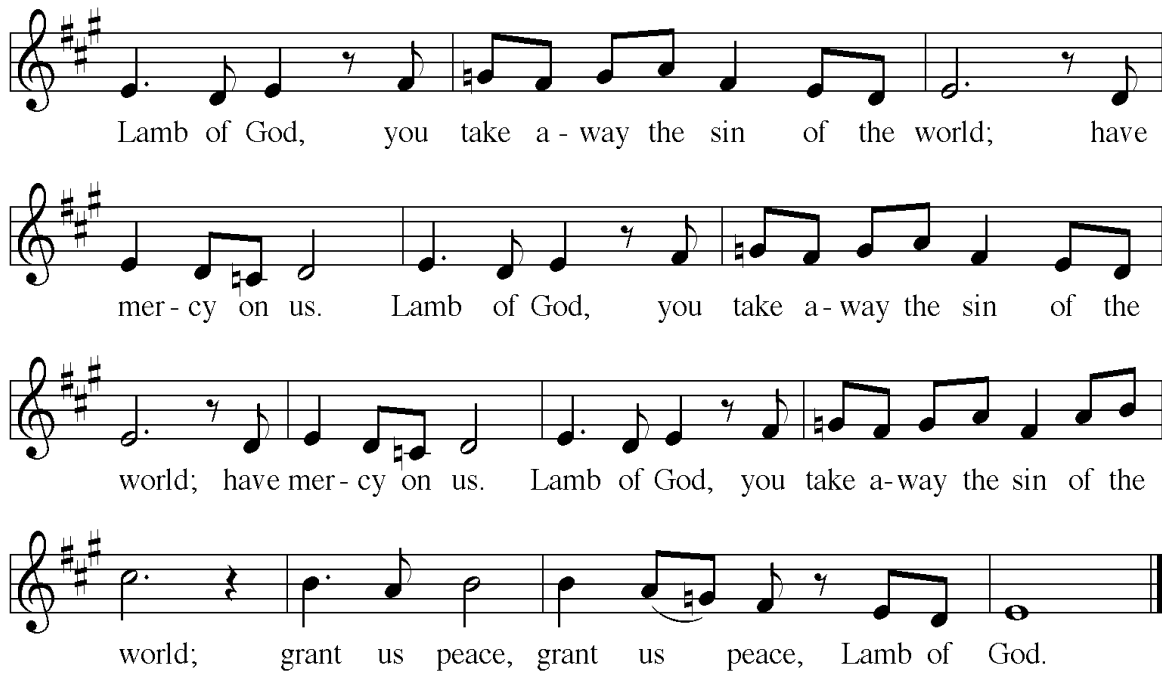
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements at the altar rail. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.

LAMB OF GOD

"Lamb of God"



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.

Music: Jay Beech, b. 1960
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress
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COMMUNION MUSIC

"Meditation" Douglas E. Wagner

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE GRACE

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod † bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You” ELW #818

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898. Text and Music Public Domain

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Recessional” Douglas E. Wagner

“May the nations be glad and sing for joy” Psalm 67:4



**First Lutheran Church ~ 3315 G Avenue ~ Kearney, NE 68847
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**Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Preaching Pastor
Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Presiding Pastor
Rev. Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, Associate Pastor**

**6:00 Amanda Lewis, Assisting Minister
11:00 Jerry Schroeder, Assisting Minister**

Reed Wagner, Organist

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