

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany
January 28, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus' fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

{LSB 849 - 3 verses}

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands

With a liberating light;
Turning blindness into sight.
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children
Praise the One who drove out demons
Praise the One who brings cool water
From this Well comes living water,

With a strong, yet gentle, word;
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
To the desert's burning sand;
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Jesus died and rose victorious
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Let us praise the true Redeemer,

Christ, who suffered in our place.
That we may know God by grace.
Seeing what our God has done;
Praise the One who makes us one.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

People: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Antiphon, Psalm 32:10; Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7*

Pastor: Many are the woes of the wicked,

People: **but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

People: whose sins are covered.

Pastor: Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him

People: and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.

People: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord” – and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Pastor: Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found’

People: surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

Pastor: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble

People: and surround me with songs of deliverance.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Many are the woes of the wicked,

People: but the Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

(God will raise up a prophet.)

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” 17 The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. 19 I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

(Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.)

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. 2 Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. 3 But whoever loves God is known by God. 4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 7 But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol’s temple, won’t that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

(please stand)

(The people are astonished at the authority of Jesus' teaching and His power over unclean spirits.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching - and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

{LSB 533 – 4 verses}

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:

Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.

Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!

See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!

Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

MESSAGE: "Fishing with Authority and Power"

Mark 1:21-28

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

THE 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.

FOR DIVINE GUIDANCE

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Let Your fatherly hand ever guide us and Your Holy Spirit ever be with us to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that we may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

{LSB 842 – 4 verses}

Son of God, eternal Savior,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
Fill us with Your love and pity,

Source of life and truth and grace,
Hallows all our human race,
For Your own will ever plead:
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others,
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
We but stewards of Your bounty

So may we for others live.
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
By Your patient years of toiling,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,

Son of God, eternal Savior,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
By Your praying, by Your willing
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition:

King of love and Prince of Peace;
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your silent hours of pain,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Source of life and truth and grace,
Hallows all our human race:
That Your people should be one,
Here on earth Your will be done.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . . WE PRAY IN JESUS'S HOLY NAME FOR . . .

Linda Fults

Prayers for **Billie Bowman** and her **medical team** as she is hospitalized with COVID and Sepsis

Prayers for **Gloria Bloecher** and her **medical team** as she remains in their care for heart problems

Prayers for **Margaret Leachman's** family as they mourn the loss of her **Mother**

Karen Brosien requests prayers for her Father for healing after surgery, a brother in Northeast Texas, and the **medical teams** caring for her family members

Laura Sanders requests continued prayers for her Father, **Jack** now living with his youngest son trying to overcome claustrophobia to use the bipap at night

David Rhoads offers prayers of thanksgiving for being able to return to work and for prayers for his **medical team** as he continues under their care

Debra Beard requests prayers for her Brother, **Tod Dunlevy** in Wisconsin as he recovers from injuries from an accident on Christmas Eve

Prayers for **Gus Addington** for continued healing following reconstructive surgery

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, undergoing treatment for cancer

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness**

For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message – Amen.

JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan 7th -Maurice Doublett – in memory of his wife, Loyce

Jan 7th – Terry Chhabra – in honor of her daughter

- Amanda Addington's birthday

Jan 14th - Larry & Pam Risley & Hayli Fernandez

- in memory of daughter & mother, Amanda Schwirtlich

Jan. 21st - Kathlin Jauregui – in memory of sister Alonne and husband Dick

Jan. 28th - Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – thanksgiving for God's many blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!

Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

Voters Meeting Today - The names of Pastor Kurt Klaus & Stephen DeMik were presented to the congregation on January 14th being considered for a call to Messiah. There will be a Voter's meeting **TODAY** to vote on which of these two men to call to Messiah. Please stay after service if you can!

The Red Booklet – that states “Welcome!” is found at the inside aisle of each Pew – is commonly referred to as the Friendship Register. As you open this booklet you will find our **ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION for ALL Present**. The form asks for Name, Address, Telephone and Email address and gives you the option to check Membership Info, Attendance Info, Wish to Join MLC, Desire a Call from the Pastor/Elder, New Resident, Visitor. The Elders collect these forms at the end of each service and turn them into the Office. This information is added to our data base and shared with Pastor Lofgren and the Elders. This form is for **ALL present** – not just visitors – however, we do hope our visitors will complete the information – giving us the ability to reach out and let you know you are welcome in the Lord's church. So – whether you are a Visitor, a Guest, or a long-time member - **Please record your presence with us today!**

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.

Sunday Afternoon Bible Class will meet Today at 11:45 pm in the Fellowship Room of the FLC - What are the causes of the problems in the world today. This film is from the "Tomorrow World" series with speakers, Rod McNair, Wallace Smith and Richard Ames. It discusses what happens when people distance themselves from God.

Key Round-up - It's time to round up any extra keys you may have. We are seeking keys to the church building and key fobs to the Family Life Center. If you were in a role where you needed a key to either of the buildings, and you're no longer in that position, we need the key back to give to the newly elected members and elders. Due to a security upgrade at the FLC we are not currently able to issue any new key fobs, so the key fobs are in very short supply. Keys can be dropped off with Maurine. Thanks for your help!

Issue, etc. - This week's topics include Responding to the Cliches of Pop American Christianity, The Epiphany Hymn “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise,” and an Update on an Attempt by Concordia University Texas to Reject the Governance & Oversight of the LCMS, The Benefits of Liturgical Worship and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod or your favorite podcast provider.

Upcoming Events -

January 30th – Messiah's Prayer Breakfast – 8:30 am at Tacqueria Reyna Tapatia

February 1st - Ladies Time Out - Valentine Brunch - Mae Dunne's Kitchen & Goods

February 10th - Adult Game Day in the Fellowship Room - Family Life Center

February 14th - Ash Wednesday

February 17th - Valentine Lunch for Everyone - Alstadt Brewery

February 21st & 28th - Lent Services

And they were
astonished
at his teaching,
for he
taught them
as one who
had authority,
and not as
the scribes.

Mark 1:22, ESV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz Elkhorn

Boerne, Texas 78015

(830) 755-4300

www.messiahboerne.org

Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



THE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

Serving us Today – January 28, 2024

Elders:	Hal Eschenko & Maurice Doublett
Coffee:	Janis & Joyce Meiers
Treats:	Vonda Petmecky
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Roger & Kathryn Winkelmann
Reader:	Alana Kemmy
Ushers:	Snookie & Shirley Moore – Joe Sorensen – Tom Bibb
Greeter:	Kathy Giardinelli & Alana Kemmy

Serving us Next Week – February 4, 2024

Elders:	Larry Risley & Ed Mycock
Coffee:	Sue Parker
Treats:	Pam Sansone
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Artie Dolt
Ushers:	Dennis & Sue Parker – Vonda & Mike Stender
Greeter:	Sue Theis

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 82 Sunday School: 20

December 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$70,889.51	Building Fund	\$17,686.00
Renovation Fund	\$0.00	Family Life Center	\$3,650.00