

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Third Sunday After the Epiphany
February 4, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Living at a time when it seems the Church is under attack, we might long for a time when everyone was looking for Jesus. Whether they know or realize it, the world is looking for Jesus, that is, for an answer to sin, fear, loneliness, pain, and death. Jesus is that answer. For this reason, our Lord had to continue to preach at the next town and the next. For this reason, we continue to proclaim the unchanging Gospel year in and year out, for it is the only Gospel by which any can be saved. May the Lord grant us zeal for His house and His kingdom!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN “Thy Strong Word”

{LSB – 578 - 5 verses}

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
For created light we thank Thee,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

At Thy speaking it was done.
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Dark as night and deep as death,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Glorious now, we press toward glory,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright with Thine own holiness,
And our lives our hopes confess.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining
From the cross forever beameth
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Fill our songs with alleluias,

Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
May the light which Thou dost send
Alleluias without end!

(please stand)

God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Mortals, angels, now and ever

To Thee laud and honor be.
Praise be sung eternally.
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Praise the holy Trinity!

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

People: **my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

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 in thought, word, and deed. 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 *Psalm 13:3-5; antiphon, v 6*

Pastor: I will sing to the LORD,

People: because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Pastor: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;

People: light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

Pastor: lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him."

People: lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Pastor: But I have trusted in your steadfast love;

People: my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

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: I will sing to the LORD,

People: because he has dealt bountifully with me.

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. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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: Isaiah 40:21-31

(He brings us out and calls us by name.)

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? 22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. 24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. 25 “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. 27 Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27*(I do it all for the sake of the Gospel.)*

16 For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel. 19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39***(Everyone was looking for Jesus.)**(please stand)*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. 32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he

was. 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” 38 Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

{LSB 398 - 5 – verses}

Hail to the Lord’s anointed,
Hail, in the time appointed,
He comes to break oppression,
To take away transgression

Great David’s greater Son!
His reign on earth begun!
To set the captive free,
And rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy
To help the poor and needy
To give them songs for sighing,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,

To those who suffer wrong,
And bid the weak be strong;
Their darkness turn to light,
Were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Before Him on the mountains
And righteousness in fountains

Upon the fruitful earth;
Spring in His path to birth.
Shall peace, the herald, go;
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him
All nations shall adore Him,
To Him shall prayer unceasing
His kingdom still increasing,

And gold and incense bring;
His praise all people sing.
And daily vows ascend;
A kingdom without end.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
From age to age more glorious,
The tide of time shall never
His name shall stand forever -

He on His throne shall rest,
All blessing and all-blest.
His covenant remove;
That name to us is Love.

MESSAGE: “Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

Mark 1:29-39

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.

People: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

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!

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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 saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy Lord, mighty Lord, from Your goodness has come all things and by Your power they are still preserved. Though we deserved nothing of Your kindness, You sent forth Your Son, born of the virgin by the Holy Spirit, to fulfill all righteousness, to atone for our sin and for the sin of the world, once for all, by His all-sufficient sacrifice upon the cross, and to rise from the dead to deliver to us also everlasting life. Gathered in His name, we pray You to bestow upon us the fruits of His redeeming work as He promises in His own testament.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: 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."

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."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the sin of the world away;
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

{LSB 618 – 5 verses}

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able

For weak and weary is my soul;
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

Refrain: *Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;

That sinners may salvation see
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,

Because I have a sinful heart,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

Weary am I and heavy laden;
Receive me graciously and gladden

With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

What higher gift can we inherit?
It is the strength of heart and spirit,

It is faith's bond and solid base;
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain.**

HYMN: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old"

{LSB 846 – 3 verses}

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
It triumphed over ills and death,
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The lepers in their misery,

Was strong to heal and save;
O'er darkness and the grave.
The palsied and the lame,
The sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,

Gave speech and strength and sight;
Revealed You, Lord of light.
Almighty as before,
As by Gennes' ret's shore.

O be our great deliv'rer still,
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
To hands that work and eyes that see
That whole and sick and weak and strong

The Lord of life and death;
With Your life-giving breath.
Give wisdom's healing pow'r
May praise You evermore.

HYMN: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

{LSB 643 – 2 verses}

Sent forth by God's blessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
O now be extended
The seed of His teaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His love shall unite us

Our true faith confessing,
The Supper is ended.
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
Receptive souls reaching,
His grace did invite us,
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
In love ever caring,
With Your feast You feed us,
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
With praise and thanksgiving

To God ever-living,
Our faith ever sharing,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your light now lead us;
Then may all the living
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN “Go, My Children with My Blessing”

{LSB 922 - 4 verses}

Go, My children, with My blessing,
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
In My love’s baptismal river
Go, My children, with My blessing -

Never alone.
You are My own.
I have made you Mine forever.
You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,
Here you learned how much I love you,
Here you heard My dear Son’s story;
Go, My children, sins forgiven,

At peace and pure.
What I can cure.
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Grow in love and love by serving,
Here My Spirit’s power filled you;
Go, My children, fed and nourished,

Closer to Me;
Joyful and free.
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you
I the Lord will smile upon you
I the Lord will be your Father,
Go, My children; I will keep you

And give you peace;
And give you peace:
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
And give you peace.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Linda Fults

Prayers for **Chris Carter** and his medical team as he is experiencing seizures with brain lesion.

Prayers of thanksgiving that **Billie Bowman** is doing well and has returned to her home

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

Prayers **Dan & Donna Cifers** as they mourn the loss of her **Mother, Margaret Chamness**

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 Muledy** battling breast cancer

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

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.

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Feb 4th – Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek – celebrating 3rd wedding anniversary

Feb 11th – Mario & Eve Betancourt – celebrating Juliet's 10th birthday

Feb 11th – Kathy Giardinelli – celebrating Tony's birthday

Feb 18th – Anthony & Pam Sansone – celebrating 51st wedding anniversary

Feb 25th - open

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!

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

Issues, Etc. *Unanswered Bible Questions . . . a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio, will have Pastors Bryan Wolfmueller and Brian Kachelmeier respond to your unanswered Bible questions. You can submit your question via email: talkback@issuesetc.org, Facebook: [facebook.com/issuesetc](https://www.facebook.com/issuesetc), or the Issues, Etc. Comment Line: (618) 223-8382. You can listen to the interview at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.*

Upcoming Events -

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 - Altstadt Brewery

February 21st & 28th - Lent Services

March 6th & 13th & 20th - Lent Services

March 16th - Mission Aviation Fellowship - Texas Event in Granbury, Tx

March 24th - Palm Sunday - March 28th - Maundy Thursday - March 29th - Good Friday

March 31st - Easter Sunday



*And he went throughout
Galilee, proclaiming
the message...*

MARK 1:39, NRSV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – 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 Petmecky & Mike Stender
Greeter:	Sue Theis & Pam Sansone

Serving us Next Week – February 11, 2024

Elders:	Larry Risley & Ed Mycock
Coffee:	Maurice Doublett
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:	Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek
Reader:	Pam Fields
Ushers:	Dennis & Sue Parker & Vonda Petmecky & Mike Stender
Greeter:	OPEN

Our Response to God Last Year
Worship Attendance: | Sunday School:

January 2024 Contributions			
General Fund	\$520,172.31	Building Fund	\$80,742.00
Renovation Fund	\$520,154.79	Family Life Center	\$44,383.32