

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Mission Moment – Jacksonville Food Center

Prelude – "His Eye is On the Sparrow," arr. Shafer

sung by Pastor Adam Dichsen, Kelly Hartz, & Terri Kimler

GATHERING

**Call to Worship – "Now Is the Time"*

(piano)

Refrain: Come to us, you who say, "I will not forget you."

Be with us, you who say, "Do not be afraid."

Take hold of us, our hearts, our minds, our whole being.

Make us you own, now is the time.

- 1. Spirit of love, crush the pain of hatred. Spirit of hope, stand before our eyes.
Spirit of light, dance within our darkness.
Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**
- 2. Spirit of peace, silence tongues of anger. Spirit of life, break the chains of death.
Spirit of joy, overcome our sadness.
Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**
- 3. Spirit of faith, rise above our doubting. Spirit of truth, save us from our lies.
Spirit of God, walk among your people.
Make us you own, now is the time. Refrain**

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: We gather in the name of our + Triune God in whom we are baptized - the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit - who is light to the world, washes us of our sins, and gives life to all.

C: Amen.

P: Remembering God's baptismal love, we step out in faith to confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of glory,

C: you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us

in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord.

✠ In Christ your sins are forgiven

and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “Praise to You, O God of Mercy” ELW 208 (organ)

- 1 **Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!**
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
- 2 **From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!**
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!
*Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.*
- 3 **Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!**
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 6:7-21, 25-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

7^cWhen you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do

you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?”³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Song – “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

(piano)

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I’m so glad you’re in my life; I’m so glad you came to save us.**

*Refrain: You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.*

Sermon – “Life Giving Commandments from a New Moses”

Song of the Day – “Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793

(organ)

- 1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav’nward, O Pow’r of my pow’r.**

3. **Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
4. **Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

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.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“The Lord’s Prayer,” arr. Matt Maher
Sung by the Faith Singers

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

C: **We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.**

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

"Make Me a Servant" *(piano)*

**Make me a servant, humble and meek, Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be: Make me a servant, make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

"Beautiful Savior" ELW 838 *(organ)*

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

- 3 **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “There Is a Redeemer”*

(piano)

1. **There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank You, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.*

2. **Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. Refrain**

3. **When I stand in Glory, I will see His face.
There I’ll serve my King forever In that holy place. Refrain**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“There Is a Redeemer,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeters: Debbie, Ethel, & Gayla

Reader: Barb Davenport

Ushers: Char & Paul Hubbard

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Susan Roegge

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Naomi Hahn & Karen Sibert

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Carol VanderKloot

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Barb Davenport

Naomi Hahn

Mike Oldenettel

Kelly Street

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Karen Sibert

Lisa Taylor

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Wednesday, February 1, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, February 2, 5pm: Parish Worship Committee

Saturday, February 4, 8am: Cooking begins for
9am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, February 5, 10:45am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 8, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Sunday, February 12, 10:45am: Exaltation Ringer Rehearsal

News Updates

Annual Meeting today after Worship

Please pick up an **Annual Report packet** and join us in the sanctuary after the coffee time for our Annual Meeting.

Music Rehearsal Time Changes

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir are trying out a new rehearsal schedule to encourage more to be a part of the music program here at Faith.

Chancel Choir will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;

Exaltation Ringers on the 2nd and 4th Sundays; all from 10:45-11:15am

Why should you consider joining us? How about free singing/ringing lessons, do something for yourself, and learn something new? Music is a gift of God... wouldn't it be a boring world without it? Making music together also relieves stress, stimulates the immune system, increases pain threshold, may help snoring, improves lung function, develops a sense of belonging and connection, enhances memory, helps with grief, improves mental health. (*Source: Healthline*)

I hope to see you on **February 5th for our Chancel Choir** rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary! Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

Men's Breakfast – February 4

Last Fall, our Men's Breakfast was a delicious hit! At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic. Our next breakfast is **Saturday, February 4**. Join us again on March 4 to hear from the guys who are going to Uganda.

Women of Faith Galentine's Day

Join us on **Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00 pm** in the Great Room for a Galentine's Day themed fellowship night. We'll have a waffle bar, chocolates, and a top-secret service project. RSVP to Monica at 217-737-0475 by Sunday, February 12th.

Discipleship Group

Join us at **10am on Wednesday, February 15**, in the Faith Library as we meet for great conversation and fellowship time. If you haven't attended before, don't be afraid to join in! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Faith and Film – February 20

Do you like the ways movies nurture and challenge our faith? Come check out this new small group as we gather for fellowship and lunch, then watch a movie and have discussion. We'll have a potluck at noon and then watch "The Intern" on **Monday, February 20** (President's Day). Please bring a dish to share and then stay for the movie and discussion.

Pancakes and Praise – Tuesday, February 21, 6:00pm

Ancient church tradition includes fasting from excess during the season of Lent. To prepare for this fast, on Shrove Tuesday (the day before Ash Wednesday), families would remove all of the fat and sugar from their homes. What do you do with all of that excess goodness? Make pancakes! Join us in the Great Room for a delicious meal of pancakes, eggs, and sausage followed by some time for worship and praise. A free-will offering will be collected to go completely to the needs of the children at Pillars of Africa in Uganda where a team will visit in March.

Ash Wednesday – February 22, 7:00pm

Lent is just around the corner! Join us for our traditional service of the imposition of ashes. The practice reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return... but also proclaims that we find life in the cross of Christ. Stay tuned for more about our Lenten midweek services.

Special Project for Uganda Trip

Kathy Trenter has volunteered to lead a special project that will produce handmade pillowcases for the children in Uganda. Our travelers will take the pillowcases with them. She welcomes your help in two ways: 1. would you like to finish sewing some of the cases (pre-cut fabric available)?, and 2. are you willing to contribute toward the cost of the pillows which will be obtained in Uganda? The cost per pillow is only \$5.00. The children

have never had pillows. This is a sweet way they can know that we care about them. You can drop a check in the offering box with “pillow” in the memo or give cash in an envelope marked “pillow”. She hopes that we can make 56 pillowcases and provide the same number of pillows. Finished pillowcases need to be **returned to the church by February 19**.

Central/Southern IL Synod Assembly

The schedule for the **2023 Synod Assembly** of our Central/Southern IL Synod is:

Session 1: Saturday, March 25 via Zoom

Sessions 2-6: Thursday-Saturday, June 1-3 in person in East Peoria

Faith is entitled to two (2) lay voting members, plus the pastor. If you are interested in serving as one of the voting members, please contact Pastor Adam.

Financial Statements

2022 Financial Statements are available at the tall table outside of the church office. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church office.

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

will be available soon in the gathering area — the printing has been delayed, but the company will get them to us as soon as they can. After they come in, if you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Faith Telephone Directory draft

A draft of a new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area at church on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center — please make any corrections/additions/deletions on that copy. A new directory will then be available later in February for all to take home (1 per household, please).

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.