

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 12, 2023

We welcome retired pastor, Rev. Dr. Glen VanderKloot this morning

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Allie Snodgrass, vocalist – "In Christ Alone," arr. Larson

GATHERING

**Call to Worship – “God’s Work, Our Hands” (ACS 1000)*

(organ)

- 1 **God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 2 **God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 3 **God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**
- 4 **God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.**

**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 – "I Will Lift Up Your Name"

(piano)

Refrain: I will lift up your name: praise to my king and God, for you are holy.

Oh, I will lift up your name: praise to my king and my God on high!

1. I will give you glory, Lord; I will bless your name forever.

I will praise you day after day. Refrain

2. Always faithful, kind and gentle, slow to anger, filled with love.

Oh, how great is the Lord of all! *Refrain*

3. Ev'ry creature, great and small, tells the glory of your name,
and proclaims to all your mighty ways.

Refrain: I will lift up your name: praise to my king and God, for you are holy.

Oh, I will lift up your name: praise to my king and my God on high! Repeat

I will lift up your name: praise to my king and my God on high!

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 13:24-43

Readers: Terri Kimler & Pastor Glen

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" ²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" ²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

³¹He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

³⁴Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing.

³⁵This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet:

'I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world.'

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ ³⁷He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Song – “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW 512

(piano)

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Sermon – “In the End God Prevails”

Song of the Day – “Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723

(organ)

- 1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**
- 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

3. **From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**
4. **Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**
Refrain

**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

"Believe," arr. Galbraith
sung by Kelly Hartz

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

"O Jesus, I Have Promised" ELW 810 (*organ*)

- 1 **O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**
- 2 **Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**
- 3 **Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**
- 4 **O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW 817 (*piano*)

- 1 **You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain

*Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.*

- 2 **You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working.** *Refrain*
- 3 **You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving.** *Refrain*
- 4 **You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.** *Refrain*

**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 – “How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art”

(piano)

**1. The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
and trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**2. And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed;**

**Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul my Savior God to thee,
How great thou art, how great Thou art.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“How Great Is Our God,” words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash, © 2004 worshiptogether.com.

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner
Greeter: Laura Sweatman
Reader: Terri Kimler
Ushers: Pat Glyshaw & John Williams
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Barb Davenport
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street
Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street

The plants at the altar today are donated by Carol Rauen
in memory of Dave & Shirley Guse

What's Coming Up at Faith?

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

Wednesday, February 15, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10am: Discipleship Group

6pm: Women of Faith – Galentine's Gathering

Sunday, February 19, 10:45am: Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 20, 12noon: Potluck

12:30pm: Faith & Film: "The Intern"

Tuesday, February 21, 6pm: Pancakes & Praise (*see paragraph on page 11*)

Wednesday, February 22, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
5pm: New Member Orientation
7pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 23, 6pm: Church Council Meeting

News Updates

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 **today for our Exaltation Ringer** rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary!
Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

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 TODAY, 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.

Prayer Partners

As Pastor Adam, Benen Dichsen, Melissa and Kelly Street, Patty Nelson, and Kevin Krohe prepare for their trip to Uganda, we are looking for helpers to cover them in prayer. Retired pastor Glen VanderKloot will be coordinating a group of volunteers to pray for each of them, multiple times each day, for the duration of their trip. He will provide five short prayers that can be used to help. More information will be shared today in worship. If you would like to participate, please contact Glen at pastor@faithlutheran.com.

Financial Statements

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

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.

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).

Free Spring Concert to Support Green Pastures

The popular Christian quartet TWO BY TWO and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting a Free Spring Concert on **Sunday, March 19 at 6:00pm** at K's Creek, 1265 Sandusky Rd. in Jacksonville. Featured performers will be TWO BY TWO, Hope Cherry, The Benz Trio, Roger Wainwright, Rod Nicholson, and John Love. There is no cost to attend – free-will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call 217-473-4735.

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!

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.