

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude – “For This Child,” arr. Blount Kelly Hartz, soloist

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for Reflection and Confession

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Jesus, the Light of the World,” vv. 1-3 (ACS 914) (piano)

- 1 **Hark! the herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world;
"Glory to the newborn king," Jesus, the Light of the world.**

*Refrain: We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.*

Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

- 2 **Joyful, all you nations, rise; Jesus, the Light of the world;
join the triumph of the skies; Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**
- 3 **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Jesus, the Light of the world;
Christ, the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world. Refrain**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's 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 – “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ELW 733 (organ)

- 1 **Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 **Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain***
- 3 **Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain***

WORD

Reading: Psalm 89:1-4

Reader: Mike Fenner

¹I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

²I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³You said, ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴“I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations.””

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* Mark 5:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 5th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹They came to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. ³He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; ⁴for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. ⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; ⁷and he shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus,

Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.’ ⁸For he had said to him, ‘Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!’ ⁹Then Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He replied, ‘My name is Legion; for we are many.’ ¹⁰He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; ¹²and the unclean spirits begged him, ‘Send us into the swine; let us enter them.’ ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the lake, and were drowned in the lake.

¹⁴The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. ¹⁷Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. ¹⁸As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹But Jesus refused, and said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you.’ ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: "Renewal"

Song of the Day – “Be Not Afraid,” vv. 1 & 2

(piano)

**You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face God and live.**

*Refrain: Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow Me, and I will give you rest.*

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the pow’r of hell and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all. *Refrain***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

“Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life”

(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)

Emma Kate, if we could give you words for the very beginning –
for this journey we make together,
for the celebrations and the sorrows,
we would say, “Oh, dear child, how you are loved.”
But the thing about love is that you can’t stop there,
So, we would go on to say, “You are strong, stronger than you think.
And you are not alone – look at these parents who adore you,
Godparents who pray for you, and this congregation that surrounds you.
Know that you are enough, already enough.”

You haven’t done anything yet.
You’ve just been here, breathing, sleeping, laughing, playing –
and already you are enough.
And then we might say, “This world is a mess, but it is our home,
and you can make it better, so always try to make it better.”

And maybe most important of all:
“There is love that is bigger than our understanding,
that moves through this world, and that love is called God.
That love is here, here in this room, and that love knows your name by heart.”

Those are the words we would say to you
as you laugh and cry, stretch and splash in these waters on this day,
the first day of your Christian life.
Let God be your foundation.
Let love be your beginning.

P: God is our foundation. Love is our beginning. And in God’s great love, we are given a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God frees us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world. In the waters of baptism, God proclaims to us who we are. We are beloved children of God.

Presentation

Parents: We bring Emma Kate to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Emma Kate, you are a beloved child of God and today you are given the name Christian. To help you grow into your name, your parents are called to make promises.

Dustin and Emilee, as you bring Emma Kate to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she 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.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Mark and Monica, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Emma Kate and help her always remember that she is a beloved child of God. Do you promise to nurture her in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Godparents: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

The congregation stands.

P: People of God, you have a responsibility to support and surround Emma Kate with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Emma Kate and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Profession of Faith

P: There is evil in this world that we name devil and brokenness we call sin. We are powerless to overcome them, but the grace of God gives us strength to stand against

them and forgiveness when we fall. Together, we profess our desire to live in this grace and in opposition to this brokenness.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: As we live together in Christ, we are made one in baptism and profess one faith. It is this faith that centers us on the grace of our Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

Water is poured into the font.

P: We give you thanks, O God. In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. In the

waters of the flood you called Noah and brought forth new life. By Moses, you called the people of Israel to follow you through the waters and led them from slavery into freedom. You nourished them with water from the rock and brought them to the promised land. At the river your Son was baptized by John and you proclaimed to all that he is your “beloved child.” In the waters of baptism, you create, you bring forth new life in us, you set us free from the power of sin, and you proclaim that we too are your beloved Children.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Holy Baptism

The congregation sits

P: Emma Kate, in this water, God calls you by name. Beloved child of God, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Laying on of Hands

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Emma Kate with the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

C: Amen

Anointing with Oil

P: In the Old Testament, oil is used to anoint and set people apart. In baptism, we are set apart as God’s beloved children to live lives of love, justice, and mercy. Emma Kate, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

Giving of a Candle

Congregational Representative: In John 8:12, Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” In Matthew 5:14, Jesus said, “You are the light of the world... Let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven.” Dustin and

Emilee, we give you this candle to light again and again as Emma Kate grows up. Remember this day and always know that she is and will always be a beloved child of God.

Welcome

P: Together we say:

C: Emma Kate Secrist, you are beloved and blessed. By the grace of God that flows in the waters of baptism, we are drenched in our love for you, washed in our delight for you, and born anew by the grace that flows from the heart of our God who bore you to us. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and in bearing God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

Every day we are to remember our baptism and remember that God's promises are for us as well. We have just heard the proclamation that Emma Kate is God's beloved child. Now it is time for you to hear it for yourself. Turn to your neighbor and exchange the sweet assurance that you are also God's beloved child as you say, "Jesus loves you!"

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

By Sandi Watts, organist

Stewardship is about our grateful response to God's grace for us. How do you respond? If you would like to financially support our ministry together, you can place a donation in an offering box or through our website. If you would like to support our ministry together through service, you can find a list of ministry teams online or on our ministry team menu. Consider joining a ministry team, or starting a new one, today!

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—

**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 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

“I Surrender All”

(piano)

**All to Jesus I surrender; All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him, in his presence daily live.**

*I surrender all, I surrender all,
All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.*

“O God, Our Help In Ages Past” ELW 632 *(organ)*

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.**
- 3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.**

- 4 **A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**
- 5 **Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.**
- 6 **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.**

**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: 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.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618 (organ)*

1. **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert

Greeter: Angela Spray

Reader: Mike Fenner

Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Barb Davenport & Karen Sibert

Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Rigby Dichsen

Adam Krohe

Carol VanderKloot

Louis Dichsen

Kelly Hartz

Kris Roth

Marilyn Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Greg Kimler

Mike Oldenettel

Kelly Street

Marilyn Dichsen

The altar flowers are given today by Kathy & Robert Trenter
in honor of granddaughter Emma Kate Secrist's baptism

Song Credits

All Creation Sings, © 2020 Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House. Used by permission.

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"Be Not Afraid" by Bob Dufford, Oregon Catholic Press, ©1975, 1978. Used by permission.

"I Surrender All," words by J.W. Van Deventer; music by W.S. Weeden. Free sheet music from HymnSite.com.

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 21, 9:30am: Worship – Baptism: Emma Kate Secrist
10:45am: Sunday School **Newsletter Deadline**
10:45am: Annual Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, January 27, 12-4:00pm: Sabbatical Lunch and Workshop

Sunday, January 28, 9:30am: Worship – Pastor's Sabbatical Send Off
10:45am: Sunday School **Friends From Faith**

Wednesday, January 31, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, February 3, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

News Updates

Sunday School

Calling all kids! After worship, fellowship, and snacks, we will gather for music and then head to our classes. We have two classes this year, one for pre-K through Kindergarten and the other for early elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, contact Patty Nelson at 217-653-3105.

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.

Contribution Envelopes for 2024 are available in the gathering area.

Friends from Faith Card Ministry

A ministry team led by Naomi Hahn: on the last Sunday of each month, everyone is welcome to send a greeting card. **Today**, visit the tall table just outside the sanctuary where you can select a card, sign a card, or deposit a card in the mailbox to send. Cards and stamps are provided for your use. If you have extra cards or stamps to spare, please bring them and donate them in the provided jar.

Women of Faith Fellowship

Save the date for our 2nd annual **Galentine's Day** party on **Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00pm**. This year we'll have a waffle and bloom bar. Look for more information soon!

Sabbatical Update

Our sabbatical time is one week away! On **Saturday, January 27**, all are invited to a special **lunch and workshop from 12:00-4:00pm** with guest presenter Pastor Jeff Linman. He will seek to encourage, inspire, and challenge us as we all embrace this sabbatical time as a time of renewal and growth. On Sunday, January 28, we will send Pastor Adam and his family off as he will be unplugged from all pastoral responsibilities for the next three months, taking time to be grounded in his identity as husband, father, and child of God. During this time, Pastor Paul Schwartzkopf will be our interim pastor and take on all pastoral care responsibilities. For more information, see the January newsletter, pick up a sabbatical FAQ at the coffee bar, or visit with one of our Council members (Greg Kimler, Kelly Hartz, Kelly Street, Ken Devlin, Mindy Carlson, Monica Proefrock, or Patty Nelson).

Neighbors in Need Outreach

For those in Jacksonville who do not have a physical address – a hot meal will be served at noon today at GO CHURCH (767 S. West St., Jacksonville), followed by a distribution of hygiene products, coats, hats, gloves, socks, and sleeping bags. This event is sponsored by Go Church and the Matthew 25 Thrift Shop.

Music Rehearsals

Exaltation Ringers rehearse on some Sundays after the service at 10:45am in the Choir Room. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know. Jean Welch, *Music Director*

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; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

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!*