

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sabbatical Send Off

January 28, 2024

We welcome Pastor Jeff Linman as our Guest Preacher today

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude – “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song” ELW 808 (piano)

- 1 **Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
- 2 **Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
- 3 **As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
- 4 **Together we share and we pray on the journey;
we come to embrace all we know and all that is unknown.
We walk humbly and justly in harmony
In all that we do may we live for the journey.**

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 – “All Are Welcome” ELW 641

(organ)

1. **Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2. **Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
Where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

3. **Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

4. **Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***
5. **Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *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 –“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858 (organ)

- 1 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

- 3 **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
- 4 **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

WORD

Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Reader: Doris Robinson

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "Abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" *Pastor Jeff Linman*

Song of the Day – "Ablaze"

(piano)

**1. Cold is the wind that blows in the night.
The darkness is deepest where there's no light.
Who will You send to carry the flame? Who will proclaim your name?
People are lost and don't even know it.
If we know the way, then why don't we show it?
Ignite the flame, O Lord fan the spark that we may shine in the dark.**

*Chorus: Set us ablaze, O Lord. Set us ablaze to tell Your story.
Shout aloud the hope of glory so that the lost will find the way.
Set us ablaze, O Lord, and fill your church with holy fire,
To share your love our one desire All our days. Set us ablaze.*

**2. For You, Lord, alone are the one who can save.
Your cross alone, and Your empty grave.
Hearts to renew, and sins to forgive that all of the world might live.
Ignite the flame, O Lord, send your Spirit,
that we proclaim, and that they may hear it
Send us to show them the way that is true. Send us to lead them to You.**
Chorus twice

**I've got a calling. I've got a mission.
Out of the boat and on with the fishing, Ablaze!
Hearts that are burning, minds that are learning,
filled with a yearning to see lives turning. Ablaze!**

**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

**"Build Your Kingdom Here," arr. Dan Galbraith
*Faith Singers***

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!

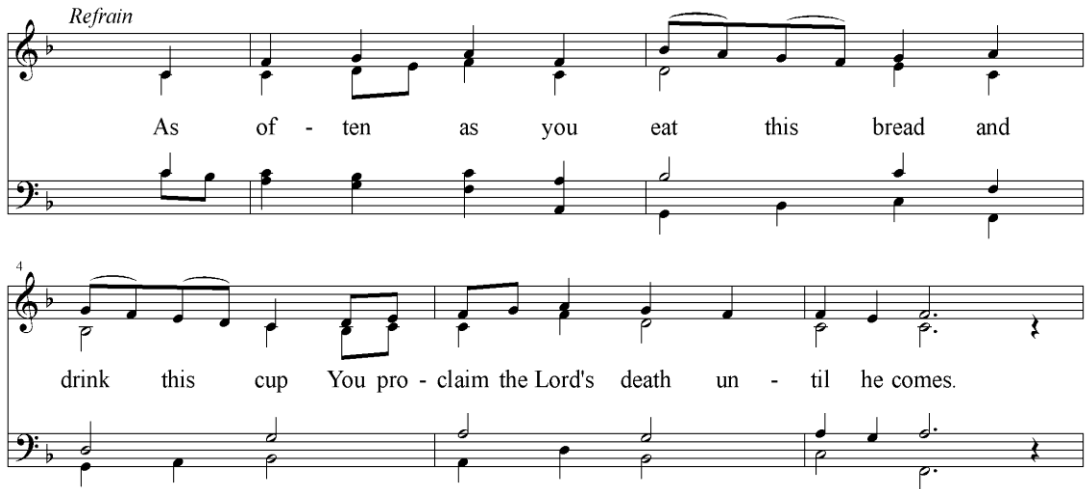
–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

Words of Institution

(organ)

P: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Refrain



As of - ten as you eat this bread and
drink this cup You pro - claim the Lord's death un - til he comes.

P: On the night of his betrayal, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*
After supper, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*

**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.

“Goodness of God”

(piano)

**I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head,
oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.
'Cause all my life You have been faithful,
and all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**I love Your voice, you have led me through the fire.
In darkest nights, You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend,
and I have lived in the goodness of God.
'Cause all my life You have been faithful,
and all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.**

**Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down. I surrender now, I give You everything,
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. Repeat**

**And all my life You have been faithful,
and all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able,
oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God.**

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age” ELW 729 (organ)

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**
- 2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

- 3 **Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 **For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 **We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.**

**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

**Sabbatical Sending*

**Benediction*

P: We are sent in the Spirit, whose power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. 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 – “Forever”*

(piano)

1. **Give thanks to the Lord our God and King; his love endures forever.
For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise.**
2. **With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; his love endures forever.
For the life that’s been reborn; his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!**

Refrain: Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong, forever God is with us, forever.

3. **From the rising to the setting sun his love endures forever.
And by the grace of God we will carry on; his love endures forever.
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise! Refrain**

Ending: And ever, forever.

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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“Goodness of God,” by Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ed Cash, & Ben Fielding.

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Lynette Hamilton

Reader: Doris Robinson

Ushers: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



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 plants are given today by Theresa Savoie
in memory of John Savoie's birthday on January 27

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, January 28, 9:30am: Worship – Pastor's Sabbatical Send Off
10:45am: Sunday School / Q & A with Pastor Linman
Friends from Faith

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

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

Sunday, February 4, 9:30am: Worship
10:45am: Sunday School

Wednesday, February 7, 7:00am: Men's Prayer Group
5:15pm: Worship Core Team
6:00pm: Women of Faith Galentine's Day Party

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.

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.

Contribution Envelopes for 2024 are available in the gathering area.

Poinsettias

Please take a poinsettia home if you would like.

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, February 3**. Come help at 8:00 and eat at 9:00.

Women of Faith Fellowship

Join us on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:00pm in the Great Room at Faith for our **2nd Annual Galentine's Party!** We'll have a waffle bar and a bloom bar from *Another Way: Blooms & More*. For \$20 you can enjoy unlimited homemade waffles and be guided in making your own beautiful arrangement to take home or gift to a friend. **Please RSVP to Monica Proefrock by Sunday, February 4** at 217-737-0475 or monica.proefrock@gmail.com. Checks can be made to Faith Lutheran with *Galentine's* in the memo line.

Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at 10:00am on Wednesday, February 21, in the Faith Library. This month, we'll explore "foolishness," both God's and our own. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Ash Wednesday Service – February 14, 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.

Lenten Wednesday Workshops: "Grounded: Plugging into Faith"

Lent will look a little different this year with Pastor Adam on sabbatical, but please plan to join us for midweek Lenten evenings that will help us learn about ourselves as people of faith and of Faith, and to grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Plan to join us in the Great Room on **Wednesday evenings from February 21 through March 20** for a potluck meal beginning at 6:00pm followed by a time of learning and fellowship at 6:45pm, and take time this Lent to become Grounded in Faith. *Monica Proefrock*

Valentines for Seniors Card Drive

This event is hosted by Illinois Senator Jil Tracy from January 5 to February 5, and she would formally like to invite you to participate. You may provide festive or decorated

handwritten cards, encouraging and uplifting notes, or drawings. We ask that you put only your first name on the cards. Sharon Zuiderveld will be collecting your cards and will get them to Senator Tracy's office.

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!*