

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for confession*

P: Have mercy, O God,

**C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**C: Blessed be God forever.**

*\*Gathering Song – “Come, Now is the Time to Worship”*

*Refrain: Come, now is the time to worship.*

*Come, now is the time to give your heart.*

*Come, just as you are to worship.*

*Come, just as you are before your God. Come.*

**One day every tongue will confess you are God.**

**One day every knee will bow.**

**Still the greatest treasure remains for those,**

**Who gladly trust you now. Refrain**

*\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ... Lord of the Sabbath,

**Your followers were told not to work on the Sabbath, and yet they boldly plucked grain to show that you are Lord of all. The world tells us not to rest on the Sabbath. Show us how to rest boldly, rejecting conventions that go against your will, and instead praying and resting as you did up on the mountain, for the glory of your word and work, Lord Jesus Christ. 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*

## WORD

\**Gospel Reading:* Luke 6:1-16      Reader: Liddy Stark

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup>But some of the Pharisees said, ‘Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?’ <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, ‘Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?’ <sup>5</sup>Then he said to them, ‘The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.’

<sup>6</sup>On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. <sup>7</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. <sup>8</sup>Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, ‘Come and stand here.’ He got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, ‘I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?’ <sup>10</sup>After looking around at all of them, he said to him, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He did so, and his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

<sup>12</sup>Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup>and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

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

*Hymn of Praise* – “For All Your Goodness Lord”

**For all your goodness, Lord, we give you thanks.  
Thanks for the food we eat, and for the friends we meet;  
for each new day we greet, we give you thanks.**

*Sermon:* "Healing on the Sabbath"

*Song of the Day* – "Seek Ye First"

1. **Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness,  
And all these things shall be added unto you -- Allelu, alleluia!**
2. **Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you -- Allelu, alleluia!**
3. **We do not live by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, Alleluia!**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

"Words for the Beginning of Your Christian Life"

*(adapted from a poem by Rev. Sarah Speed)*

Sadie Jane, 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 Sadie Jane Peterson to this Christian community and to the waters of Holy Baptism.

P: Sadie, 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.

Andrea and Leo, as you bring Sadie 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: Anna, Maggie, and Carmen, as godparents, you have a responsibility to pray for Sadie 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 Sadie with Christian love, praying for her, discipling her, and serving with her. Do you promise to support Sadie 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: Beloved child of God, in this water, God calls you by name. Sadie, 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 Sadie 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. Sadie, 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." Andrea and Leo, we give you this candle to light again and again as Sadie 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: Sadie Jane Peterson, 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.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time*

End-of-Year Giving – *Patty Nelson*  
*"Take Me to the Water," sung by the Faith Singers*

*–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.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*\*Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution*

*\*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.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Communion Songs*

“Son of God, Eternal Savior” ELW 655

- 1 Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,  
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:  
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrong, and help our need.**
- 2 As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.  
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.**

- 3 **Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.  
By your patient years of toiling, by your silent hours of pain,  
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.**
- 4 **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race:  
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.**

“As the Grains of Wheat” ELW 465

*Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread:  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.*

1. **As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain**
2. **Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. 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: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds  
in † Christ Jesus.  
C: **Amen.**

\**Sending Song* – “May the Love of God Go with Us” (ACS 984)

**May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,  
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

\**Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Song Credits**

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship,” words & music by Brian Doerksen, Vineyard Songs, © 1998. CCLI#973583

“For All Your Goodness, Lord,” German tune. Public domain.

“Seek Ye First,” by Karen Lafferty, Maranatha! Music, © 1972. CCLI#973583

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### **Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Liddy Stark

Reader: Liddy Stark

Usher: Paul Scheerer

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Patty Nelson & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Kris Roth

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert

Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Carol VanderKloot



Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

## What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 2, 9:30am: Worship  
11:00am: Bible Study  
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp

Sunday, February 9, 9:30am: Worship  
11:00am: Bible Study

The altar plants are given today by Andrea and Leo Peterson  
in celebration of Sadie's baptism today  
*and*  
by the Roth-Snodgrass family in memory of Mary and Sam Roth

## News Updates

### Faith's Little Flock

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to healing including, why we rest on the Sabbath, Jesus raising the widow's son, exploring who Jesus is, and the healing power of forgiveness. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in February!

## **Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on its significance for us today.

## **Bible Boot Camp**

Last Fall, we introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children. Pastor Adam warms them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all join with parents and older youth for a meal.

**Our next event will be today from 4:30-6:00.** Spread the word and bring a friend!

## **Faith Inkubators**

Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Future events are scheduled on Sundays, from 5:30-7:30.** The next date is **February 23.**

## **Discipleship Group**

It's that special time of year! ♥ Swing by the Faith Library at 10:00am on **Wednesday, February 19**, for a heartwarming chat all about LOVE and everything it brings. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email [khartz@sompo-intl.com](mailto:khartz@sompo-intl.com). Can't wait to see you there!

## **Women of Faith – Galentine’s Day Tea Party**

Join us on **Saturday, February 22 at 10:30am** in the Great Room at Faith for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Galentine’s Day! This year we’ll be having a fun tea party with tea, cakes, scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, a special craft. Gals of all ages are invited. Feel free to invite friends to join you. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 12** to Monica at 217-737-0475.

## **Listening Session**

The Council invites you to a meal and listening session following worship on **Sunday, February 23.** We will enjoy some good food and fellowship, then, at our tables, discuss some questions about our ministry, what ways we can help meet the needs of our congregation and community, and how we can involve all generations. Specific questions will be mailed out and available to pick up on Sunday, February 9.

## **Financial Statements**

Financial Statements for 2024 are available in the church office.

**Contribution Envelopes for 2025** are available in the gathering area.

## **HUGS Giving Statements**

The HUGS Giving Statements are in the office on the counter for pickup. Any statements not picked up by today will be mailed.

NOTE: If you made a check out to Faith Lutheran Church with HUGS in the memo, your Faith giving statement will include that donation. Checks made payable to HUGS directly and online donations at the HUGS website will be reflected on your HUGS giving statement. All donations to HUGS whether made payable to Faith Lutheran Church or HUGS have been received and utilized for the children's needs at the Pillars of Africa Children's Ministry. Thank you for your partnership and support!

## **End-of-Year Giving**

For many years, Faith has designated money to be given to a variety of partners in ministry. This year, at our Annual Meeting, we approved \$20,000 to be shared. Below is a list of last year's recipients. **If you have a recommendation of a 501(c)3 recipient for this year, tell Patty Nelson (pattynelson1938@gmail.com) by the end of February.**

2024 Recipients: Hearts United in God's Service (HUGS), International Health and Development Network (IDHN), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western IL Youth Camp, YMCA, Faith Scholarship, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Prairie Council on Aging, New Directions, St. Vincent DePaul, Jacksonville Food Center, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Faith mortgage.

## **Poinsettias**

Please feel free to take a poinsettia home if you would like.

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