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Worship

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2nd, 2025

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Call to Worship

God, give me the courage to be revolutionary,
as your Son Jesus Christ was.

Give me the courage to loosen myself from this world.
Teach me to stand up free and to shun no criticism.

God, it is for your kingdom.
Make me free,
make me poor in this world.

Then I will be rich in the real world,
which is what life is all about.

God, thank you for the vision of the future,
but make it fact and not just theory.

GATHERING HYMN- Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW #275 vs 1,3, & 4

- 1** Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 3** Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

- 4** All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgement, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst of one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✝ Christ you are forgiven. In the spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend , gracious Lord.

Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, increase us in the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

You may be seated

THE WORD

First Reading- Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.

"Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71:1-6

In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of refuge,
**a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

For you, O LORD, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

Second Reading-1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us
Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. **“You shall go to all to whom I send you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”**
Alleluia!

The holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading-Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

HYMN OF THE DAY – Of the Father's Love Begotten ELW #295 vs 1,4, & 5

1 **Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.**

4 **Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.**

**5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us the courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness. Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities.

God of Grace,

Hear our prayer.

You guard the lives of your faithful ones and rescue them in times of distress. Heed the cries of all who are afraid. We pray especially for our loved ones needing your care: Brian, Julies, James, Addy, Phillip, Linda, Stella, Karen, Kris, and Rosemarie.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Voices and instruments ring out with melodies of praise to you. Bless the music ministries of the congregation and all who lead us in making a joyful noise in worship, especially Kristan, Marin, and our Bethany Choir.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

What else do the people of God wish to lift up to God today.....

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us.

God of grace,

Hear our prayer

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it.
We continue with the offering.

OFFERING HYMN-Give Thanks TFF #292

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

OFFERTORY- "Make me a Servant"

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace,
Your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the sea. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One. Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 INVITATION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

You may be seated

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Nourishing God,

At this table you have refreshed us with the holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Amen.

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God, † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light- #ELW 815

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

xt: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Choir Director	Marin Wilts
Accompanist	Kristan Youn
Lector	Karen Maglich
Communion	Karen Maglich & Moe Aaby
Ushers	Jeff & Karla Dasen
Fellowship	Sandra Patelis
Production	Tom Aaby
Counters	Moe Aaby & Karla Dasen