

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 2024

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8100 SHADY GROVE RD.

MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111

SAINTPAUL-LCMS.COM

804.427.7500

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Rodney E. Bitely, Pastor
Mr. Bill Moats, Choir Director
Mr. Roger Sethmann, Organist
Mrs. Debbie Harris, Church Secretary

A Word About Communion

We Lutherans believe in the Real Presence, namely that Christ's body and blood are actually present with the bread and wine in a very special way (1 Cor. 10:16). Because we want to honor Christ and to grow closer to Him through this precious gift of forgiveness we practice close communion. Our faith in Christ brings us closer to Him and to each other. This sacrament is His way of keeping us close, that is, in union or communion with Him and fellow Christians. In order to build closeness, please read below before communing.

- ✦ I confess my sins to God and rely on Jesus Christ to save me from them.
- ✦ I believe that Christ is really present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I actually receive His true body and blood.
- ✦ I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and live a life that is pleasing to God.



As We Gather

All throughout the Epiphany season is the shadow of the question: Who is Jesus? We have heard Jesus called the Lamb of God and the light of the world. Now He is proclaimed our Brother who lays aside what is His right to become our servant even to death upon a cross. Within that context, we who are called His brothers claim not right or privilege but the path of service in Christ. Our freedom is not the liberty to do as we please but the responsibility of love for the sake of our weaker brother—just as Christ suffered as the innocent for the guilty. Instead of looking inside of us, we have something better to look at: Christ and our neighbor.

Key:

- △ – Stand
- Ⓟ – Pastor
- Ⓐ – Assistant/Reader
- Ⓒ – Congregation

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

906 O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;
 3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
 △ 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
 This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
 His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.
 At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,
 This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,
 We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,
 We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.
 And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.
 From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.
 The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

Text (sts. 1-2): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt.; (st. 3): Charles P. Price, 1920-99; (st. 4): The Hymnal 1982

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg

Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain

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Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

1 John 1:8-9; [John 20:19-23]

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7; antiphon: v. 10

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
- P** Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C **whose sin is covered.**
- P** Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
C **and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
C **surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
- P** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
C **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- P** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

Kyrie

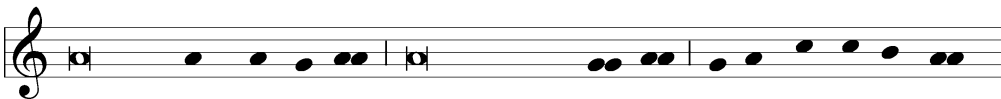
Lord, Have Mercy



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



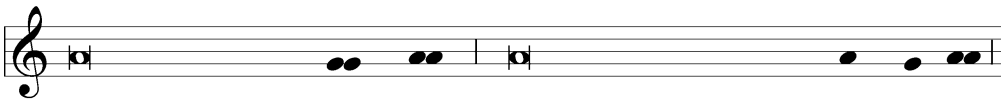
C Lord, have mer - cy.



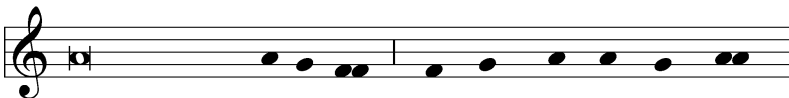
A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



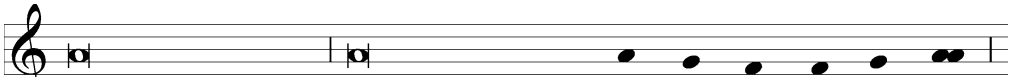
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



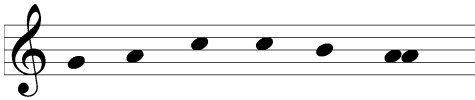
and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



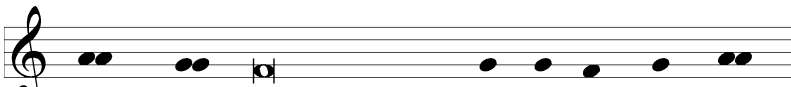
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the Highest



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Epiphany 4

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray... Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

God will raise up a prophet.

A The Old Testament Reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter 18.

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.

A The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 8.

Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Anthem

Stand

Gradual

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol him, all peoples!**

P For great is his steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

C **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

The people are astonished at the authority of Jesus' teaching and His power over unclean spirits

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Message

All children, preschool age through elementary school, are invited to come forward for a special message.

842 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.
 Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse ... Contradansseu, c. 1710, Amsterdam
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Deuteronomy 18:15-20, "God's Prophet"

*"The LORD your God will raise up for you
a prophet like me from among you,
from your brothers –
it is to him you shall listen--... "*
Deuteronomy 18:15

Stand

Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs... Father of love, You rescued Your fallen people with the sufferings and death of Christ, Your Son, our Brother in flesh. Guide us to know and rejoice in His salvation and to proclaim this Gospel with boldness to our brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of mercy, Your compassion has rescued us from the powers of evil and set us free. Guide us to use this liberty to serve others as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of grace, You have provided us with the new life of Holy Baptism and granted us faith by the power of the Spirit. Keep us in this faith that we may be preserved from evil and delivered from all our enemies to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of truth, You have given us Your Word that we might know the truth. Guide our leaders, especially President Biden and Governor Youngkin, that they heed the voice of Your Word and protect us from violence so that we may lead peaceful and godly lives without fear. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of comfort, You have borne in Your Son all our wounds. According to Your will, deliver all who are sick, who suffer, who are troubled in mind, and those near death that they may be preserved in faith in the day of trouble. *Be especially with ...* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of hope, You have ended the reign of death by the resurrection of Your Son. Deliver us from death and grant Your peace to the dying and Your comfort to those who grieve. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions may be offered.

P All these things for which we have prayed and all other things we need, we pray You to grant us in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Offering

Voluntary

Stand

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so 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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy Lord



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is He who comes in the name



of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

C 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.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

Stand

Thank the Lord

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray... Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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 A - men.

- P** Go in peace.
- C** Serve the Lord!

924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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A Congregation Sharing Christ's Salvation
By Grace...
Through Faith...
Revealed in Scripture...
Alone.