



FIRST TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024, 5:30 P.M.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024, 8:45 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a guest with us today, we are so glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a yellow card from the pew rack and put it in the offering plate on the table outside the sanctuary. Or scan the QR code printed here to fill out an electronic connection card. You will find all of the words in the worship service projected at the front of the church or in this bulletin.



If you have something you would like us to pray about this week, you can write it on the back of the yellow card. Our staff and prayer team will pray for the requests during the week. If you so choose, we will post your request online at our prayer wall as well.

First Trinity is a Bible-based church. We believe God's Word is the sole authority for this life. We are imperfect people loving imperfect people. Our prayer for you today is that you would connect to God and grow closer and closer to Him each day.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | **EPIPHANY** | LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST | TIME OF THE CHURCH

We are in the season of Epiphany, which began with God sharing the good news of Jesus with the magi, who were Gentiles. This did not fall within the expectations of the time, when God's people kept their faith within the Jewish people. We recognize the opening of the church to the Gentiles with green paraments, the color of growth. This time of year is also a traditional time to focus on missions and further expanding the church.

To help you understand the different parts of worship today, we've provided several side notes throughout the service folder. Read the notes to discover some of the meaning behind the words and parts of the service. You will find a deeper appreciation for the rich symbolism and spiritual meaning behind Lutheran worship.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Charles Whited Jr., Lead Pastor*

(Stand)

INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Leader If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *1 John 1:8*

People **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:9 (silence for personal confession)*

Leader Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People **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.**

ABSOLUTION

Leader In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
John 1:12, Philippians 1:6

People **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing *LSB Hymnal 528, verses 1, 3, 5, 6, 7*

Verse 1

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Verse 3

Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

Verse 5

Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race.
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

Verse 6

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an offering made
For ev'ry soul of man.

Verse 7

To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

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KYRIE

Leader In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People Lord, have mercy.

Leader Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Gloria in Excelsis* LSB Hymnal 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



G 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.

COLLECT

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader 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.

People Amen.

(Sit)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

"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.'"

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA *LSB Hymnal 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

People 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.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.

(Sit)

(8:45) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministry*

MESSAGE HYMN *Son of God, Eternal Savior* *LSB Hymnal 842*

Verse 1 - All

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 wrongs, and help our need.

Verse 2 - All

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.

Verse 3 - Kantorei Only

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.

Verse 4 - All

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, O grant our hope's fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.

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MESSAGE *Puff Up or Build Up?* Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

People I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Sit)

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OFFERTORY *Beloved, God's Chosen* Sung by the Kantorei

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

People 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. 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.

(Stand)

CLOSING HYMN *O God, My Faithful God* *LSB Hymnal 696, verses 1, 2, 4, 6*

Verse 1

O God, my faithful God,
True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is,
All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unstained by sin.

Verse 2

Grant me the strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command,
My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should
While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good,
For You must give success.

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BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Verse 4

Lord, let me win my foes
With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends
For counsel and correction.
Help me, as You have taught,
To love both great and small
And by Your Spirit's might
To live in peace with all.

Verse 6

And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

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