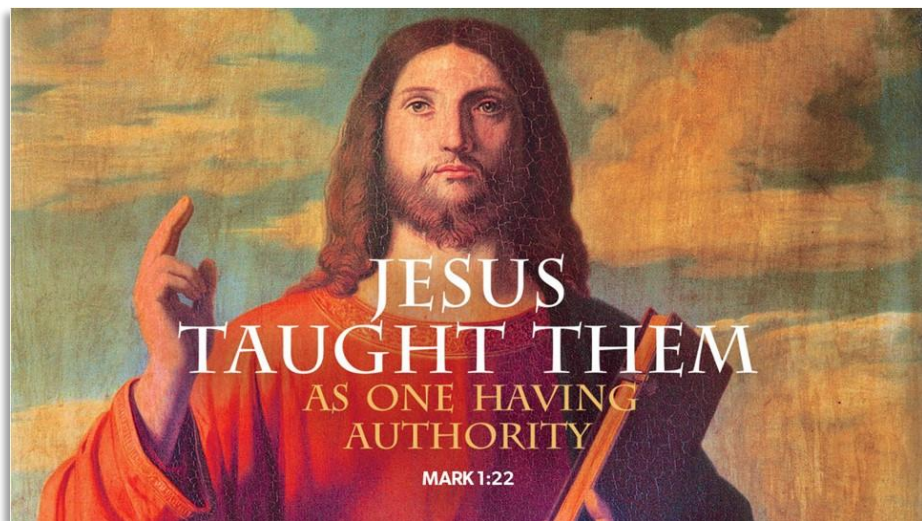




## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church

1009 18th Avenue SW

Great Falls, MT 59404

406-761-1543

Email: [bethelgf.church@gmail.com](mailto:bethelgf.church@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bethelmt.org](http://www.bethelmt.org)

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

A congregation of the Montana Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.*

*As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING SONG**

*ELW 310      Songs of Thankfulness and Praise [1,4]*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,  
**we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another**  
**and sinned against you.**  
**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**  
**dwelling in each of us.**  
**Remember your covenant.**  
**Renew your creation.**  
**Restore us,**  
**that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*WOV 28 Bread of Life, Setting 5*

*Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.***

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*WOV 29-30 Bread of Life, Setting 5*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.*

*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.*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;  
glory to God, Glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Compassionate God,  
**you gather the whole universe  
into your radiant presence  
and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.  
Bring wholeness to all that is broken  
and speak truth to us in our confusion,  
that all creation will see and know your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## JUBILATE CHOIR

*This Little Light of Mine*

### FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your  
covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's  
praise endures forever.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13**

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact 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.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus

sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*WOV 31 Bread of Life, Setting 5*

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

The holy gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: MARK 1:21-28**

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then 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 with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Jessie Obrecht

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LH 201

*Healer of Our Every Ill*

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*WOV 35 Bread of Life, Setting 5*

***Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.***

***Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.***

***Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.***

***Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.***

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*WOV 36 Bread of Life, Setting 5*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.***

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first 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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.*

### **LAMB OF GOD**

*WOV 39, Bread of Life Setting 5*

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.***

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*LH 232 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*

*LH 515 Freely, Freely*

*ELW 465 As The Grains of Wheat*

*ELW 466 In The Singing*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Giver of every gift,

**Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.**

**Raise us to life by your power**

**for the benefit of all and to your glory,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
And the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*ELW 434      Jesus Shall Reign [1,2,4]*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**Thanks be to God**

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

## SERVING TODAY

<b>Accompanist</b>	Connie Titcomb, piano;
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Tamy Scholten
<b>Usher</b>	Sara Sexe
<b>Tech</b>	Gabe Smith
<b>Children's Church</b>	Addi Carlson and Rylee Virts
<b>Hospitality</b>	Judy Johnson and Terry Korpela
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Dougherty (Greg Grosenick) and

**Flowers are given** by Daren and Patty Braget in celebration of their grandson Sterling Stubbs birthday.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.**

Today we are blessed with the sweet voices of the **Jubilate Choir**  
**led by Jeff Skogley.**

Immediately following our worship service today is our **Annual Meeting.** Voting members of Bethel are asked to make every effort to attend. We will be voting on new council members, church representatives for FLBC and Synod Assembly, nominating committee members and 2024 budget. We need a quorum for our Annual Meeting.

## THIS WEEK

### **Tuesday 1/30**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 1/31**

- Bible Study on Zoom led Udo Wozny
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 2/1**

- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:00 pm

### **Friday 2/2**

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship service 6:00 pm

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday 2/4**

- LOGOs Family Worship service led by Pastor Jessie and LOGOs Youth Ministry in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- 4-H Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 2:00 pm

### **Tuesday 2/6**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 2/7**

- Bible Study on Zoom led Pastor Jessie Obrecht
- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 2/8**

- Executive Board Zoom meeting 6:30 pm
- Electric City Chorale rehearsal in the sanctuary 7:0 pm

### **Friday 2/9**

- Bethel office is closed.

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