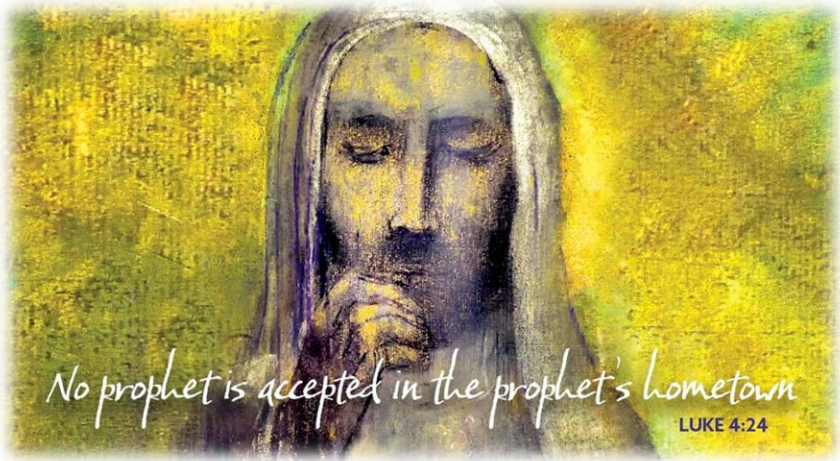




FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
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Great Falls, MT 59404
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

INTRODUCTION

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

ELW 671 *Shine, Jesus Shine*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, 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 about 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.**

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

Setting 10 ELW S203

1. Have mercy on us, LORD, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

2. Have mercy on us, CHRIST, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

3. Have, mercy on us, LORD; make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Setting 10 ELW S204a Canticle of Praise

1. Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;

We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; Here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God,

increase in us 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.**

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

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." ⁷ 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 71:1-6

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

For you are my hope, O Lord God,
my confidence since I was young.

**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 10 ELW S205a

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The holy gospel according to Luke the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "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.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Rev. Dawn Busch

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 705 *God of Grace, God of Glory*

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

LH 134 The Spirit Intercedes for Us

The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express oh.

The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express oh.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

W&P 5 All That We Have

R: All that we have and all that we offer comes from a heart both frightened and free. Take what we bring now and give what we need, all done in your name.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

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 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

Setting 10 ELW S207

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n 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 joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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

Setting 10 S208 Lamb of God

1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

ELW 466 In the Singing

ELW 474 Bread of Life from Heaven

LH 515 Freely, Freely

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. Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us
with 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.**

BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 863 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee [1]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist

Connie Titcomb, piano;

Acolyte

Brian Boucher

Lay Assistant

Kolton Kupfner

Readers

Taitlyn Ames, Ethan Kupfner, Elle Gustafson, Ginger Graft, Anna Boucher, Teshar Johnson, Sidney Rio, Sierra Rio, Kendall Ryan, Jackson Duff, Ellie Kosanda

Ushers

Greta Graft and Kari Ryan

Tech

Gabe Smith

Projection

Tim Lightbourne

Children's Church

Claire Woods and Addi Carlson

Hospitality

Bethel Lutheran Church

Counters

Stephanie Cummings and Tammy Good

Bethel Flowers are given by Hope Circle in celebration of our new pastor, Rev. Dawn Busch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We thank the **LOGOs Youth Ministry** for assisting leading worship this morning.

We are honored and blessed to welcome **Pastor Dawn Busch** our new pastor at Bethel who is leading worship this morning.

Following worship we will hold our **annual meeting**, if you are a voting member of Bethel you are encouraged to stay, all are welcome to attend.

CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, 2/4

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

Wednesday, 2/5

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Friday, 2/7

- Office Closed
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 2/9

- Worship 9:30 am in person and livestream
- World Hunger Sunday
- Jubilate Choir sings

Tuesday, 2/11

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

Wednesday, 2/12

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; High School 6:30 pm

Thursday 2/13

- Executive Board Meeting in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm

Friday, 2/14

- Happy Valentine's Day
- Office Closed

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