LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WOODLAWN CAMPUS

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Epiphany 4

January 28 - 29, 2023

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WELCOME: We welcome all who worship with us today! May you be spiritually refreshed and strengthened by the message of God's Word. If you have no church home, one of the pastors will be happy to speak with you about membership in the congregation.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER: We ask everyone – members and guests – to sign our Friendship Register during the service. Visitors, if you are worshipping with us for the first time, we would especially appreciate it if you would list your address and telephone number so that we can acknowledge your visit. Thank you.

PARENTS: If your children become restless, that's okay . . . We're glad they're here and Jesus is pleased when they are brought to hear His Word! Perhaps a moment or two with mom or dad is all that is necessary. Our "Mother's Room" is speaker equipped with a view of the sanctuary.

HOLY COMMUNION: Our church practices closed communion. We ask that only members, or members of other WELS or ELS churches partake of the Sacrament. Families and couples are welcome to stand together as they commune. Members who require a non-alcoholic juice option should point to the center of the tray. Prepare to receive the Lord's Supper using p.295-6 in the Blue Hymnal.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Bible emphasizes the need for us to stay close to God through his word. We offer several opportunities for young and old – various Bible classes and organizations for teens and adults, Sunday School, confirmation classes, Vacation Bible School, Lamb of God elementary school (3-year-old preschool through 8th grade), and Lutheran Pioneers for boys and girls. Members and visitors are encouraged to attend.

WE BELIEVE AND TEACH . . .

- There is only one true God. He reveals himself as three distinct persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- The Bible is the inspired and error-free Word of God.
- All people have disobeyed God's will and deserve God's just punishment.
- God so loved the world that he sent his one and only son, Jesus Christ, to be our perfect substitute and be punished for our sins.
- Only by faith in the work of Jesus Christ do we become heirs of the glories of heaven. This is a gift of God's undeserved love and not a result of our own efforts.
- Faith in Jesus Christ motivates us to devote our lives in service to God and our fellow human beings.

† Our Worship Focus today: In the Beatitudes Jesus shows us the outcome of a life that is lived trusting in God's strength.

Welcome

Opening Hymn #713 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

P: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

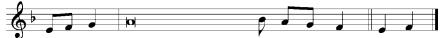
C: Lord, have mercy.

- P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: 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.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C: Amen.





For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

P: The Lord be with you. **C:** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day...

All: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11–13

³ Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹ In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill. ¹² But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. ¹³ The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day #1B - How Truly Blest Are They

²⁶ For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸ and God chose the lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰ But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹ God did this so that, just as it is written, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Pastor)

Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia. (Matthew 5:3)

Gospel Matthew 5:1–12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
- because they will be comforted.

 ⁵ Blessed are the gentle,
 because they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
- P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon Matthew 5:1-12

Don't Let Your Eyes Deceive You!

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son

is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Presentation of Our Offerings

Prayer of the Church

The Sacrament

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

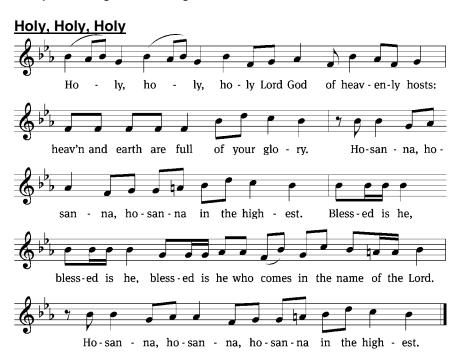
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Prayer of Thanksgiving (Pastor)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God. now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution (Pastor)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



Distribution

<u>Distribution Hymn #660 - Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face</u>

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

C: his mercy endures forever.

P: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn #928 - May the Grace of Christ Our Savior



Serving Us Today

Preacher: Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

Organist: Debra Aufdemberge (Sat.) / Dee Ann Techlin (Sun.)

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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