



St. John's Lutheran Church
January 14, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

(An usher rings the church bells 5 minutes before church service starts)

Prelude –

(Acolyte -When music starts light candles)

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

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.**

Gathering Hymn “Here I Am, Lord” ELW#574 v.1-3

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"
Refrain

Apostolic 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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Thanks be to you, **Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation ACS pg. 33 *(Please stand)*



3

replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon Rev. Eric Nielsen (*Please Sit*)

Hymn of the Day “The Son of God, Our Christ” ELW#584 v.1-5

- 1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way, shared human life and toiled throughout the day; from common folk he called the twelve to be coworkers in his sacred ministry.
- 2 In ev'ry test, in trials manifold, these servants witnessed, by their faith made bold; and with the gifts and talents which they brought the church was founded and God's message taught.
- 3 Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare to follow boldly and his work to share, to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame, declaring to the world his holy name.
- 4 In city street, in town, or on the soil, may each serve Christ in faithful daily toil, and in each thought and kindly word and deed, obey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
- 5 Where'er we find our witness should be made, whate'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid, that we may gladly give for thee our best and find each task divinely sent and blest.

The Prayers of the Church

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Petition: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Peace

(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)

Offering – “Safe Within Your Arms” by Mark Hayes

(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers to place on the altar during Offertory) (Observe a time of silence and reflection)

(Reflection)

Offertory “I’m Going on a Journey” ELW#446 v.1-2 (Please stand)

- 1 I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today. My head is wet, and I'm on my way. Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too; it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!
- 2 I'm becoming this day a saint of God. It really doesn't matter what roads I trod. Wherever I go, God's been there, too. God's love has touched me and will carry me through.

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 thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy ACS pg. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to Table *(Please Sit)*

(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)

Lamb of God ACS pg. 40



Communion Hymn "As the Grains of Wheat" ELW#465 v.1-2

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*
- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Post Communion Blessing (*Please stand*)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

Blessing

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 “I Love to Tell the Story” ELW #661 v.1-3

(Acolyte – Extinguish candles)

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old
story of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I
tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have
never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

Refrain

- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and
thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Sending

Go in peace. Consider what God has called you to become.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

- Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006 & Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright 1978 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.
- Reprinted from *With One Voice* copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.
- Reprinted from *Worship & Praise* copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #20510.
“All Rights Reserved” Used by permission. CCLI License # 1070784. With permission by OneLicense.net license A-703800.

Altar Flowers: In memory of my children, Karey Paulson and Kenny Paulson
by Janet Andrews.

Serving at worship today:

Pastor – Rev. Eric Nielsen

Worship Assistant – Kathy Freitag

Lector – Kathy Freitag

Acolytes – Claire Ernster, Ned Ernster

Ushers & Greeters – Sam Pederson, Brian Wagner, Dramus Peuse, Mike Torud

Communion Servers – Julie Kersten, Cheryl Mattison, Rachel Torud,

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point- Brett Isaacson

Musicians- Karol Hommen, organ/piano