



**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany – January 28, 2024
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship

A: For God alone our soul waits in silence, for our hope is from God.

C: God alone is our rock and our salvation, our fortress; we shall not be shaken.

A: On God rests our deliverance and our honor; our mighty rock, our refuge is in God.

C: Trust in God at all times, O people; let us pour out our hearts before God, who is a refuge for us.

Gathering Hymn – Rise, Shine, You People! – ELW #665

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, giver of life.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

L: God, our rock and our refuge,

C: 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.

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus Christ, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Greeting

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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.
Lord, have mercy.

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

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

Hymn of Praise – Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word – ELW # 663

Prayer of the Day

A: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior.

C: 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.

The Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This 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.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But 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.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

¹Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸**They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, 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.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸“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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They 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.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Message – Tim Leitner, SAM

<https://youtu.be/BQSnSYHWdR0?si=XXPht6nHTDsLsbiC>

Hymn of the Day – I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – ELW #815

The Apostles’ Creed

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 Intercession

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

A brief silence.

A: Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, we pray for all creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term or chronic illness, those without access to safe housing or healthcare, and any who are suffering ... God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: 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.

C: Amen.

Offering

Offertory Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing - ELW #886 vs 1-4

Offertory Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

C: In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

A: Meet us at this table,

C: that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

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.

Communion

Post Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food and we are Christ body in this world.

C: Raise us to new life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,

A: now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: God who names you, Jesus Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, +bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn –I Love to Tell the Story– ELW #661

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude