

First Lutheran Church – ELCA

Worship Bulletin – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 16, 2022

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONG – “Lift Every Voice and Sing” (ELW 841)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
felt in the days when hope un - born - er - ty;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at - last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,

let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus surprised the people at the wedding.

P: They were sure they would be disappointed.

L: They thought that their host wasn't prepared for their needs.

P: We aren't much different. We aren't sure God is prepared for our needs.

L: Lord, change our whining in to praising!

P: Change our moaning and complaining into celebrations of joy! AMEN.¹

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

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 (ELW p. 138)

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.**

¹ Worship Connection: January 16, 2022. Nancy C. Townley. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3501/worship-connection-january-20-2019>

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Let us pray. **Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD - God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

PSALM: Psalm 36 (STS 20)

Your constant love reaches to the heavens.

Your faithfulness extends towards the sky.

Your righteousness towers like the mountains.

How precious is your love, your constant love, God of great power and might.

Your constant love's deeper than the ocean.

Your shelter is the shadow of your wings.

Your fear of life flows like a river.

How precious is your love, your constant love, God of great power and might.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who

activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” (ELW 172)

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus’ signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God’s creative power and joyful presence into the world.

¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” ⁴And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” ⁵His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

SERMON (ELW p. 143)

You might not be able to see it well but this wagon was one of Landon’s earliest gifts. I’m sure all the farmers in this congregation will look at this and confirm that this is an accurate representation of how you transport livestock. (Just kidding). If you can’t see, there is a farmer (who sings Old McDonald when placed in his spot), a horse, a cow, a sheep, a pig and a chicken who sits right in the middle. If you press the right animal in the right spot, it makes a fun animal sound. Well, for whatever reason, for months Landon was absolutely determined that the chicken should be driving the truck. We tried and tried to show him where the farmer went and where the chicken went, but he wasn’t having it. The poor farmer was usually just thrown in the pile of living room toys and the chicken was jammed into the driver’s spot again and again. This would inevitably result in the chicken getting stuck in the drivers spot again and again (the chicken would usually be laid on his side and not sitting up, which would at least have resulted in him fitting in the space). The predicament would result in Landon having a melt-down, again and again. Time and time again we would tell Landon, “The chicken just isn’t meant to drive the tractor,” as we pried the chicken out.

Though Landon’s interaction with his toy wagon is, for the most part, comical, I would say it’s a pretty apt metaphor for how many of us act on a regular basis. We expect other people to be like us; good at the things

we are good at and we get frustrated when they don't do things as well as we might have done them. We also try to pretend to be good at things we are not good at or have spiritual gifts that we don't really have, too. This causes us to feel angry, frustrated, out of place and worried. Usually, too, it results in things not going well, and frustrates and disappoints those around us. To use another metaphor, I heard at a conference, "Trying to pretend you have a spiritual gift you don't is like trying to wear size six pump heels when you are a size eight. It does not feel good and it does not look good on." Finally, looking at the gifts and talents of others and wishing they were ours fosters anger, resentment and, maybe, like with Landon and his toy, meltdowns.

Today, the Apostle Paul is focusing on spiritual gifts in his letter to the ancient church in Corinth. Throughout 1 Corinthians, Paul is addressing specific situations in the church such as whether or not Christians should break off relationships with non-believers, how they should partake in the Lord's supper and whether or not it was acceptable to eat foods that had been given to gods. We don't hear specifically what the conflict was about in regards to spiritual gifts, but it's evident there was an issue surrounding that matter. Perhaps some people were claiming their gifts were more important. Perhaps some were using their talent only for their benefit. Nonetheless, there was a debate or conflict to be settled, so Paul set to it. In this part of his letter, Paul's re-assuring the ancient community of Corinth that they did, in fact, have a variety of gifts and talents at their disposal. The work and ministry in front of them was challenging, but they were well equipped.² No one person had all the skills they needed, but, together, united in the Spirit, they had all the skills to do the work God was calling them to do. Without each other, though, they would fail. As Dr. Melanie Howard writes, "Emerging out of a holiday season of gift giving, the New Testament text for today provides a different take on the concept of giving and receiving gifts. Where popular stories about Santa Claus depict a magnanimous giver doling out longed-for presents for the sake of individual enjoyment, Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts imagines a divine giver who bestows gifts based on what will most contribute to the common good of a whole community. Ultimately, this distribution of gifts serves to make the Spirit itself manifest among the community of believers."³

The same is true today in our churches today. We fall into the exact same traps that churches did hundreds of years ago. It's easy for us who have served in the church for a long time to look at others and think, "Well, they should step up and serve in the exact same way I did and do it how I did it." This type of thinking causes us to not really consider the gifts and talents each newer person has here. Their skill sets and experiences might cause them to do things very differently from the way they were done before. Or, maybe their gifts will lead to a new program or way of doing things, and the old way will change into a new way. It's also easy for all of us to sit back and think, "Oh, I don't have the gifts and talents to help out." But we all have gifts and talents that we are called to use to build up the body of Christ and change the world in Christ's name. We still get jealous of each other for the skills and things others have and we still resent people for not being able to do the things we can, labeling them as lazy, outdated, impractical or other such things. Sometimes, we can think of our gifts and talents as existing to help us look good or build ourselves up, instead of focusing on how our skills build us all up.

And, we forget that we really are united. Just as much as this passage is about remembering that we have different gifts, it's also about remembering that our gifts exist for the building up of each other. We are united in Christ. We can choose to act like it or not, but we still are. And if we still are, we might as well act like it.

² Lutheran Study Bible. Commentary by Dr. David Fredrickson. 1874-1875, 1888. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2009.

³ Melanie Howard. Commentary on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 for January 16, 2022. Working Preacher. <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/second-sunday-after-epiphany-3/commentary-on-1-corinthians-121-11-6>

This week is the second Sunday in Epiphany. Epiphany is a season where we celebrate the surprising and profound realizations that God places in our lives. Today's passage from 1 Corinthians provides an epiphany for all of us to dwell on in our lives and shared work together. We can't do it alone. We don't do it alone. We don't have to do it alone. We belong to each other and together we have all that we need.

HYMN OF THE DAY – “We All Are One in Mission” (ELW 576)

We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love,
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united

by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.

2 We all are called for service,
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
with God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.

3 Now let us be united,
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.

APOSTLES CREED (ELW p. 104)

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world,
and all that God has made. **A brief silence.**

By your Spirit, activate within your church gifts of faith, healing, and prophecy. Unite those who profess your name across congregations, denominations, and geographic boundaries. Open our hearts to recognize and celebrate surprising miracles. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation reflects your generosity. Bless farmers, migrant farmworkers, orchard-keepers, ranchers, and all who tend the abundance of the land. Protect food and water sources from destruction, that all can eat and drink and be satisfied. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

By your Spirit, grant wisdom, knowledge, and discernment to those who hold leadership positions at any level. Direct policymakers toward compassionate decisions that build up safe and just communities. Lead all authorities in seeking and serving the common good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus provided generously in a moment of need, provide generous gifts of healing for those in need this day (*especially*) **Members:** Winora Hallstrom, Todd Poppema, Dave Livingston, Linda Towne, Al Luig, Janice Berger, Sandy Rogers, Todd Hallstrom, Charlene Wachter, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson; **Members in Nursing Homes:** Lois Graf, Albert Mattisen, Bobbie Elvin, Sandra Marsh; **Members in Care Facilities:** Fred Wietzema, Joan Doeden, Jean Bender; **Family Members & Friends:** Joe Christensen (son of Nora Leinen & Gene Christensen), Arlene (Fern Burmeister's sister), Butch Zeiner (Valerie Veen's brother), Maverick Thalberg (Fern Burmeister's great-grandson), Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron's son), Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall's dad), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen's son); **Our service men and women and Love INC..** Provide abundantly for all who are hungry or thirsty, all seeking shelter, and all who seek peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You see us for who we are and you delight in us. Embrace those struggling with self-worth, wrestling with self-identity, or facing significant life transition. Remind us that nothing can separate us from your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You bless us through the spiritual gifts of the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all who have modeled the way of courageous faith (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING - Choir Anthem, "Many Gifts, One Spirit" by Dianne Hannibal (arr. Raney)

OFFERATORY HYMN – "In the Bleak Midwinter" (ELW 294)

In the Bleak Midwinter

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

‡ in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

In the Bleak Midwinter

3 What can I give him,
 poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd
 I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man
 I would do my part;
 yet what I can give him--
 give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING (ELW p. 146)

Look around you, dear people. God's joy is poured out for you so that you might be a blessing to others. God will continually walk and work with you, relieving your burdens and giving you strength. Go into God's world, rejoicing! AMEN.⁴

SENDING SONG – “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth: Enviado soy de Dios” (ELW 538)

⁴ Ibid.

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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Words

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth
Enviado soy de Dios

ENGLISH

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. *(Repeat)*

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. (*Repeat*)

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Encounter” the ecumenical youth group for grades 7 and up is on Sunday nights. We meet at Hy-Vee where attendees are able to snack on food and have a soda or Starbuck beverage. Friends are invited to come to this gathering of fun. Activities begin at 6:30 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

FELC SCHEDULE FOR January 10-16, 2022

Monday - 10	9:00AM	BULLETIN DEADLINE
	6:00PM	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00PM	Day Care Association Meeting
Tuesday - 11	7:00AM	Early Risers Bible Study
	7:00PM	Day Care Association Meeting
Wednesday - 12	3:30PM	KFC
	5:15PM	Meal
	6:00PM	Worship
	6:30PM	Confirmation
	6:30PM	Sanctuary Choir
	6:30PM	Card Ministry
	7:30PM	Youth Group
Thursday – 13		
Friday - 14		Pastor’s Sabbath Day
Saturday – 15		
Sunday - 16	9:00AM	Worship – 2 nd Sunday in Epiphany
	10:00AM	Sunday School
	6:00PM	“Encounter” @ Hy-Vee

ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 at 10:00 am. The meeting will be held in a Hybrid method this year. Those who wish to be in person can gather in the Sanctuary and those who feel

more comfortable in zooming we will email out the zoom code closer to the time of the meeting. A letter has been sent out explaining in detail of what will happen at the meeting.

Worship Time Change will take effect on February 6. Our new worship time will be 9:30 am and Grace Lutheran will have services at 8:00 am.

Card Shower/Coffee Hour will be held on Sunday, January 23 in honor of Ron Hallstrom's 80th Birthday. If you will not be able to be here, cards can be sent to Ron at 1260 Collegeway, Worthington. Happy Birthday Ron! Thanks for all you do at First Lutheran.