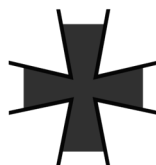


# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024



MEMORIAL  
**LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH



# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* - arr. David Cherwien  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Welcome

**Gathering Hymn:** *"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"* ELW #519

## Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -  
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

## Prayer of the Day

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

## First Reading - Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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

*Congregation speaks **bold text**.*

REFRAIN: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*

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

**2 Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**

3 Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.

**4 You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion. REFRAIN**

5 You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.

**6 You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

7 The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.

**8 They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity. REFRAIN**

9 You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.

**10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise endures forever. REFRAIN**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, 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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet 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.

<sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For 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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, 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.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28**

The Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

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

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: *"Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"* ELW #843**

## **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**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



## Offering

**Music Voluntary:** "Come to Jesus" - arr. Joel Raney

*Memorial Handbells*

*Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die; Raise your head, for Love is passing by.*

*Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus and live!*

*Now your burden's lifted and carried far away, and precious blood has washed away the stain.*

*So sing to Jesus, Sing to Jesus, Sing to Jesus and live!*

*Like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl. And remember when you walk, sometimes we fall.*

*So fall on Jesus, Fall on Jesus, Fall on Jesus and live!*

*Sometimes the way is lonely, steep and filled with pain. So if your sky is dark and pours the rain,*

*Then cry to Jesus, Cry to Jesus, Cry to Jesus and live!*

*When the love spills over, and music fills the night, and when you can't contain your joy inside,*

*Then dance for Jesus, Dance for Jesus, Dance for Jesus and live!*

*And with your final heartbeat kiss the world goodbye, then go in peace and laugh on Glory's side.*

*And fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus and LIVE!*

## Offering Prayer

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 to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

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

## Words of Institution

### 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.

## Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Communion Hymns

*"Lamb of God" - ELW Setting 6*

*"Healer of Our Every Ill" - ELW #612*

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Prayer after Communion

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.**

## Announcements

### 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:** *"Let the Whole Creation Cry"* ELW #876

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* - arr. Wayne Wold  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep the family of +Bob Klopping in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Ernie Ruhde in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Dick Settle in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Connie Krupp in your prayers  
following her death*

*Please keep the family of +Lynn Harris in your prayers  
following his death*

*Please keep Karen Blank and family in your prayers  
following the death of Karen's husband, +Don Blank*

*Please keep Larry & Deb Parker and family in your prayers  
following the death of Larry's brother, +Ron Parker*

Kati Stieler  
*sister-in-law of Dan Stieler*

Johann Thiel

Paul Johnson

Mike Neal

Kathy Lynn Johnson

Christina King

Sherry Kluever

Kim Elliott

Marsha Kane

Pr. Marcia Kisner

Marlene Waddell  
*friend of Virginia Palmisano-  
Goettsch*

Sandy Muesburger  
*friend of Virginia Palmisano-  
Goettsch*

John Bass  
*son-in-law of Ron & Gloria  
Jacobson*

Carol Vincent

Cassie Harrell

Jean Smith

Ellie Lynch

Sierra Parr  
*cousin of Kim Stieler*

Janet Jacques

Easton Farrington

Janice Hartz

Jackie Byers  
*daughter of Shellie Black*

Donna See

Norma Dannan  
*friend of Betty Runge*

Jami Tharp

Fred Samuelson

Jaylee Bartleson

Sheila Collingwood  
*mother of Lyndsey  
De Vos*

Judy Coverdale

George Forsyth

Janeen Driscoll

Julie Sutherland

Jan Cook

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf.*

*Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### **Thank you for your generous gifts through our Generous Gifts Tree!**

We would like to express a huge thank you to everyone who made extra donations this past November and December through the Generous Gifts Tree in the Narthex! In the fourth quarter of 2023, the General Fund had an approximate \$28,000 shortage in income vs expenses. Your generous gifts helped us to end the year with a General Fund surplus of approximately \$4,000. This is an amazing difference and helped us end the year well! THANK YOU!

### **Save the Date: Community BINGO & Nachos Night February 4**

Join us for BINGO and nachos from 5:30—7:00 PM on Sunday, February 4. This is a fun event for Memorial and the community (all ages, kids and adults welcome!), so please invite your friends! Free-will donations will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. Please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Lastly, we need prizes for our BINGO winners! We're looking for items with a value of around \$5 (or less) for a variety of ages. If you would like to donate a prize or two (or more!), please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

### **Donations Needed for Crisis in Middle East**

A word from our wider church body: *"Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes.*

*Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region."*

**Please go here to donate: <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>**

### **A Special Note Regarding Tithe.ly Fees**

We so appreciate all that give using the online/mobile giving platform Tithe.ly! If you haven't already, please consider including Tithe.ly processing fees as part of your one-time and recurring gifts. To do this, simply check the "Cover Fees" box when setting up your gift. If you have already set up a recurring gift and would like to start including the fees, you'll need to delete this gift and set it up again with "Cover Fees" checked.

## Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as “A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place” (heating and cooling) and “Drive for the Drive” (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

## Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know?* In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!**



### *Save the Date*

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, January 31, 6:30—7:30 PM

#### **Beer & Theology**

When: Thursday, February 1, 6:30 PM (first Thursday of every month)

Where: Cubbies on Main

#### **Community BINGO and Nachos Night**

When: Sunday, February 4, 5:30—7:00 PM

Where: MLC Fellowship Hall

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, February 7, 6:30—7:30 PM

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, February 14, 6:30—7:30 PM

#### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, February 21, 6:30—7:30 PM

#### **Snow Tubing with Memorial**

When: Friday, February 23

Where: Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone

**Memorial Lutheran Church**  
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Memorial Lutheran

Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
Mike Coverdale, Custodian