



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 28, 2024 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Throughout 2024, our Sunday morning and special services focus on one text from each of the sixty-six books of the Bible. In doing so, we have the opportunity to look at the entire sweep of the biblical witness. The Bible is not sixty-six separate stories but one, cohesive narrative from creation to new creation, centered in Jesus our Savior. This series is created by Rev. Dr. Paul Deterding, teacher emeritus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School.

P Pastor **C** Congregation/All

✙ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 904 *"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"*

BAPTISM OF SKYLAR LEEANN BROWN (10:30 am)

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Psalm 124:8; 32:5*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. ►**

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7; antiphon: v. 10*

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C **whose sin is covered.**
P Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
C **and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
P Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
C **surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**
P You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
C **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

GLORIA PATRI | Glory to the Father *For text and tune, see page 186.*

- C** (sung) **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

KYRIE | Lord, Have Mercy *Mark 10:47*

For text and tune, see page 186.

- C** (sung) **Lord, have mercy upon us**
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS | Glory to God in the Highest *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

For text and tune, see pages 187–189.

- P** (sung) **Glory be to God on high:**
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
 For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

For text and tune, see page 189.

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH *1 Peter 2:9*

C You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
 and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15–20*

The Lord will raise up a prophet who will speak God's truth to His people.

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet

like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.’¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

Saint Paul explains how we can faithfully serve the one, true God.

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed 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.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former

association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN 584 *“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing”*

1 Faith and truth and life be - stow - ing, O - pen now the
2 May the Spir - it's pow'r un - ceas - ing Bring to life the

Scrip - tures, Lord, Seed to life e - ter - nal sow - ing,
hid - den grain, Dai - ly in our hearts in - creas - ing,

Scat - tered on the wind a - broad. Let not hearts, Your
Bear - ing fruit that shall re - main. So in Scrip - ture,



HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 4:10–12, 21–25*

Jesus explains the purposes of His parables.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁰And when [Jesus] was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹²so that ‘they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.’” ...

²¹And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket,

or under a bed, and not on a stand?

²²For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” ²⁴And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. ²⁵For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 589 *“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”*

SERMON *66 Texts from 66 Books: “He Who Has Ears to Hear, Let Him Hear”*

OFFERTORY *Psalm 51:10–12; for text and tune, see page 192.*

G Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering (10:30 am):

SOLO “God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It” arr. Kevin Hildebrand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

*The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction,
and Closing Hymn 921, “On What Has Now Been Sown.”*



We receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 10:30 am service continues with the Preface on page 194 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord’s Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord’s Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail.

For those who have problems consuming alcohol, you are invited to receive diluted wine from the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups. For those who have dietary restrictions, gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 577 “Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

HYMN 586 “Preach You the Word”

HYMN 412 “The People That in Darkness Sat” (You may remain seated for v. 6.)



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Nunc Dimittis, Thanksgiving, Salutation and Bendicamus, and Benediction on pages 199–202.

CLOSING HYMN 921 “On What Has Now Been Sown”

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: It's not only important that we hear God's Word; how we hear it is just as crucial. Whenever reading and hearing the Bible in search of truth, understanding, and a relationship with God, He fills us the unfailing gifts of our Savior Jesus. “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). “If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear” (Mark 4:23 NIV).

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*; Clairia Martens, *Vocalist (10:30 am)*

Leilani Walker, Dayton Schnakenberg, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Victoria Strobel, Ryleigh Thompson, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

- **New:** Rev. Perry Copus, Donnie Fiene, Vivian Harms, Walter McKinney, Randy Lasater
- **Ongoing:** Ann Wolters, Rev. Leslie Mitkos, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Roger Luedeman, Amy Gerdts, Gloria Burrow, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Jeff Vogt, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffith, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Angel Engle, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball
- **Nation and World:** the people of Dominica
- **Partners in Mission:** Zion Lutheran Church; Bolivar, MO
- **Birthdays:** (1/28) Deb Demel, Tyler Frerking, Paul Tebbenkamp, Stephen Wienberg; (1/29) Rick Heimsoth, Kenneth Hemme, Alicia Kueck, Rebecca Lemmert, Christian Matisko, Tammy Schlueter, Rick Stumbaugh; (1/30) Vivian Harms, Rev. Gary Muehler, Jessie Otero, Carol Wilckens; (1/31) Jerry Werneke, Amy Woods; (2/1) Jan Beerman, John Brunkhorst, Kathy Frerking, Chris Gerdts, Kay Gray; (2/3) Angela Frerking, Christopher Maggett

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 26:1–21; 1 Corinthians 9:16–27; Mark 1:29–39

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 901, 468, 394, 396, 792, 399



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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