

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GATHERING MUSIC

The congregation gathers in the sanctuary before the congregational meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Establish a Quorum, Meeting Called to Order, Prayer, Congregational Meeting and Voting, Adjourn.

PRELUDE

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Whose Spirit blew over the waters of creation
the God who gave us a new birth in the waters of Christ baptism,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

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

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.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come (ELW 610)



- 1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.
- 2 From ev - 'ry ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
- 3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
- 4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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 together.

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.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

Moses said 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 111

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalms Refrain



Psalms 111:10

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Psalms Tone



Psalms tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Hallelujah! 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 de- [|] light in them.

³Majesty and splendor [|] mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- [|] dures forever.

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

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

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

Refrain

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever.**

Refrain

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus and his disciples 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." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

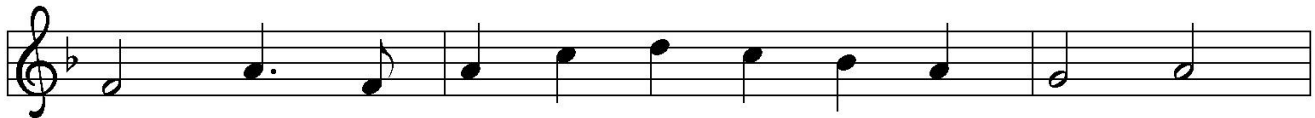
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

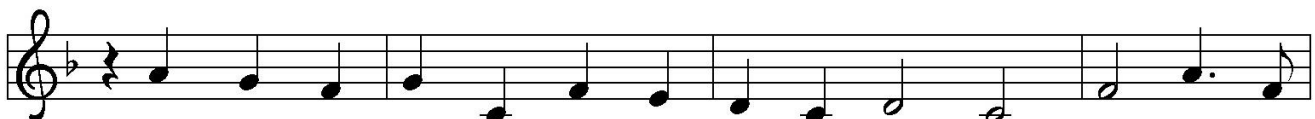
The congregation may be seated.
Vicar Alex Linn

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may be stand.
Rise, Shine, You People! (ELW 665)



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of 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 THE PEOPLE

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. You may assume a posture of prayer through standing, kneeling, or sitting. Let us pray.

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,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of 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,
receive our prayer.

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,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*) God of grace,
receive our prayer.

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,
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

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

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Bless His Holy Name

by Mark Sheppherd

Praise the Lord, O my soul; bless his holy name.
Forget him not whose meekness still bears with all your sin,
who heals your every weakness, renews your life within.

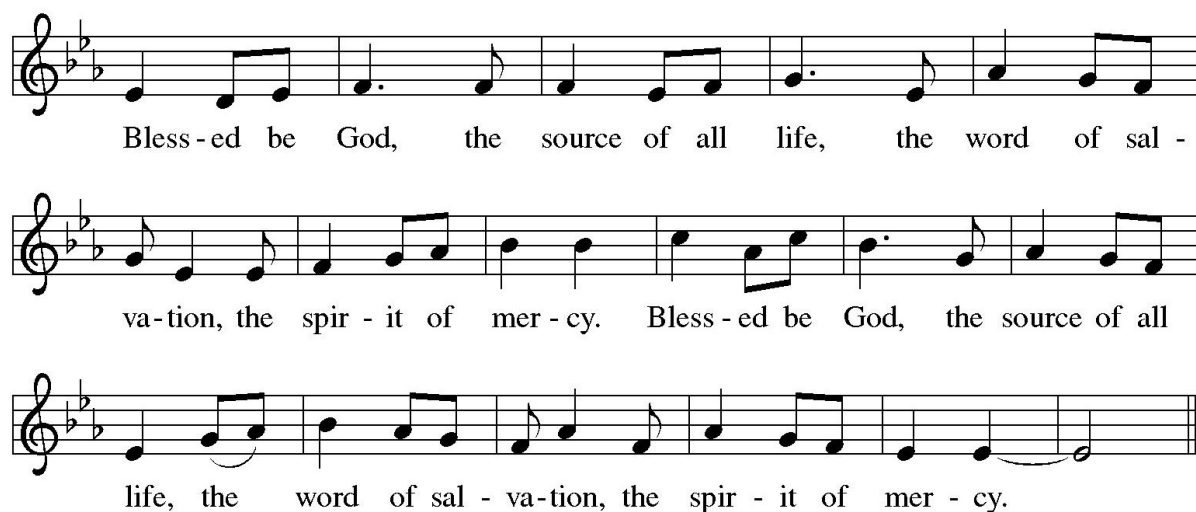
Praise the Lord, O my soul; bless his holy name.
He offers all his treasure of truth and righteousness,
his love beyond our measure, he pities our distress

Praise the Lord, O my soul; bless his holy name.
For as a tender father pities his children here,
God in his arms will gather all those who him like children fear.

Praise the Lord, O my soul; bless his holy name!

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.
Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life



Bless - ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless - ed be God, the source of all
life, the word of sal - va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

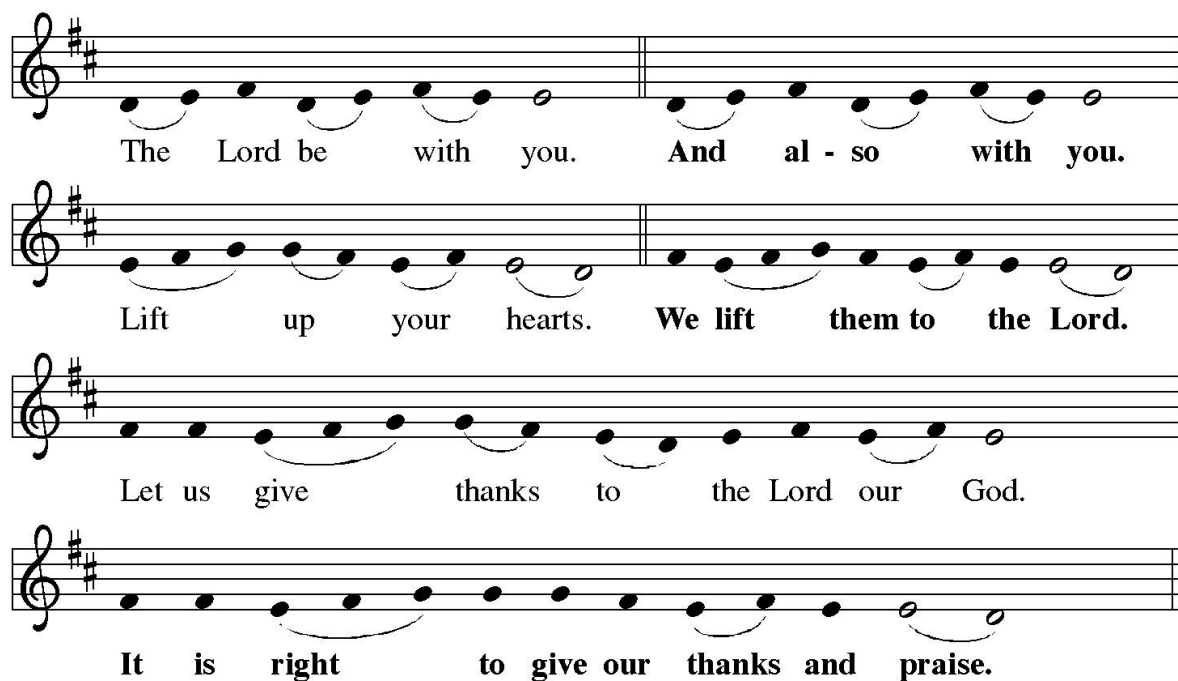
Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

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.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Live among us and bless this meal.
May your Word dwell in us to awaken your people and Fill us with your light.
That we might be a gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God 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

In this meal is the light for all life, Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Thee We Adore, O Savior (ELW 476)

1 Thee we a - dore, O Sav - ior, God most true,
2 O true re - mem - brance of Christ cru - ci - fied,
3 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God,
4 Je - sus, by faith we see thee here be - low;
thy glo - ry clothed in bread and wine a - new;
the bread of life to us for whom he died;
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleans - ing blood;
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:
our hearts to thee in true de - vo - tion bow,
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,
in - crease our faith and love, that we may know
some - day to gaze up - on thy face in light,
in hum - ble awe, we hail thy pres - ence now.
be thou the sweet - ness we were meant to find.
the hope and peace which from thy pres - ence flow.
blest ev - er - more with thy full glo - ry's sight. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

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.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886)



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners including the Episcopal Church, USA, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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- Scripture readings from the NRS

SERVING TODAY

<i>Interim:</i>	Vicar Alex Linn
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Alan Swanson
<i>Guest Organist:</i>	Sam Reese
<i>Cantor:</i>	Audrey Neace
<i>Reader:</i>	Jillian Radde
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	Claire Radde, Harrison Radde
<i>Communion Elements:</i>	Sam Novak, Caroline Novak
<i>Usher:</i>	Peter Hauser
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Livestream Camera:</i>	Jason Shutters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Our Congregational Meeting takes place this morning at the beginning of the 9:30 am service. The congregation will vote on the 2024 budget, elect representatives to the 2024 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly and vote to approve the minutes from the June, 2023 congregation meeting.

Children's Church

Today is Children's In-Service Sunday. Many of our children will be participating in various ways in the worship service.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues their winter session today. Class will meet at Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. The class is currently studying Luther's Small Catechism.

Call Committee Update

Please to complete the St. John's 2024 Call Process Survey which was made available to you last week. You can either complete it using the link in your e-news, or complete a paper copy available on the table in the gathering area and place it in the designated box. The survey should take 6-10 minutes to complete. You have until Monday, February 5 to complete the survey. Results will be shared with the Council mid-February and sent to the Synod at the end of the month February along with our Congregational Profile. The Synod will use this to find the best candidate for a new Pastor. We expect to start receiving

candidates in early March. Please ask each member of your household that is interested, complete a survey. We are looking for as many points of view as possible.

Have a Heart' Valentine Benefit Luncheon

The Women of Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invite the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church to join them for a Holy Family Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, **February 10 at 11:30 am** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Please make your reservation by Saturday, February 2 by signing up in the gathering area or contacting Cindi Rachowicz 224-307-3513 or e-mail att41623@sbcglobal.net Let's show our support with a table for 8. All proceeds will fund the annual tuition for a child at Holy Family School.

Also, on Feb. 10, Trinity will accept DONATIONS of gently used adult clothing for **LUCILLE Resale** to benefit Holy Family Ministries. (To donate large items/furniture, email clear photos directly to donate@hfm.org.) If you're unable to join us at the luncheon, donations to support the scholarship fund would be gratefully appreciated. Send checks to Holy Family Ministries | 2215 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1510 | Westchester IL 60154 Online at: www.hfm.org/donate

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible study meets on Tuesday mornings, 11am-12:00pm. with Vicar Alex Linn. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Helping Migrant Families

St. John's members can help by dropping off coats, hats, gloves, scarves, pants, and boots in designated boxes inside the **Wilmette Metra Station** at 722 Green Bay Road. The greatest needs are for children's outdoor clothing. Our donations will help migrants stay warm and feel acknowledged as they make their way to the Chicago Welcoming Center.

Family Promise

Executive Director of Family Promise Chicago North Shore, Tracy McKeithen, will be joining us for worship and a special coffee hour on **Sunday, February 11** and will share lots of information about Family Promise, how the program works, and how our St. John's community can help. She will also be doing a training for volunteers at that time. Our Family Promise host week will take place **Sunday, February 25-Saturday, March 2.**

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard Ruzs, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- † Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23
- † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23
- † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23
- † Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23
- † Family & friends of Marge Bennett, loved one of Kristen Danielsen, who died 11/17/22
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury
- † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing, 2/23/22
- † Lorraine Beutelspacher, moved to new home in Arizona 2/3/23