

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Scout Sunday

Prelude Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn "Here I Am to Worship" by Tim Hughes
(c 2001 ThankYou Music;
CCLI Song #409181)
Song Leader and Congregation

1. Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.
opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

Chorus:
Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

2. King of all days, oh, so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor. (Chorus)

Bridge:
I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross. 4x

Chorus

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

C: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:21-31

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain

and spreads them like a tent to live in,
²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹ He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a wage, but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my wage? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

²⁹ As soon as they^[a] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon "From Fear to Faith"

Sermon Hymn "This Is My Song"
(v. 1 Ensemble, vv. 2-3 Congregation Please Join)
Eagle and Honor Scout Ensemble and Congregation

1. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2. My country's skies are bluer than the oceans,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands, have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3. This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.

O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
and hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, Isaiah in our Old Testament lesson proclaimed God's greatness. He said, *"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth."* As the Creator of the Universe, God has salvation and new life for the entire Creation. Saint Paul, in I Corinthians, knew his job was ministry to all people. ***Lord in your mercy...***

In fact, Paul felt such a responsibility to share God's Good News that he said, *"Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ... I am entrusted with a commission."* And Paul adapted to the needs of all who would hear his message, saying, *"I have become all things to all men, that I might ... save some. I do it... for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."* So valuable was Paul's message that he wanted everyone to hear it. ***Lord in your mercy...***

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world that they might work for peace. Like the Creator God, Jesus knew the importance of meeting people at the point of their need. Jesus controlled the forces of evil. The Gospel lesson says, *"And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons."* Jesus restored righteousness on earth wherever He went, bringing God's kingdom of power and glory with Him. ***Lord in your mercy...***

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's grace. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? ***Lord in your mercy...***

Where did Jesus and Paul get their strength and courage to share the Gospel? Isaiah tells us. *"The Lord... does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles."* Alleluia! Our God reigns! In Jesus mighty name, we pray.

Amen.

CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music "Always Loving Him" by Bryan Jeffery Leech,
Arr. by Roland Tabell, (c1976, 1981 by Fred Bock Music)
Choral Ensemble

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Nothing will work unless you do. —Maya Angelou

Here's a parable that has been used to scold "the younger generation" about how to succeed in life. See what you think.

A certain farmer told each of his children when they were young that there was a "secret" of life, and it was a mystery that he'd reveal when they reached their 12th birthday. "I will tell you the secret of life then," he said.

On the day that the eldest turned 12, the nervous daughter approached her father and said, "So, tell me the secret."

He said, "Fine, but you must promise not to reveal the secret to your younger brothers and sisters."

The girl promised.

He said, "The secret of life is this: *The cow does not give milk.*"

His daughter was nonplussed. "Wait. What?"

"You heard me. The cow does not give milk; you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself.

"This is the secret of life: the cow does not *give* milk. You *milk her or you don't get milk*. There is this generation that thinks that cows *give* milk. That things are automatic and free. The mentality of this generation is that if 'I wish, I ask ... I obtain.'

"It is used to getting whatever it wants and getting it the easy way. But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining. The things that one receives are the cumulative effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration."

The original fabulist of this story then adds the moral: "So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces are going to give them everything they need in life."

Isn't it closer to the truth to say that this lesson is not generation-specific, but that it is a valuable truth every generation learns in its own time? Our parents learned it; we learned it; our children learned it; and their children will, too.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all those who work hard every day, and who do so with a smile on their faces. Bless them, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

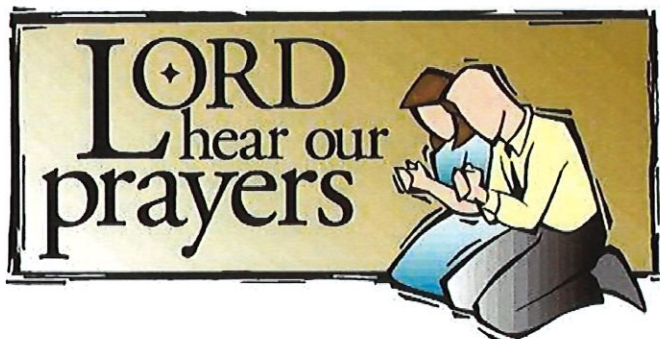


Members in Need of Prayer:

Jill Anderson
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Carolyn Linn
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
Father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
David Torres (Hays)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Kyle (Werfelmann)
Kristy (Werfelmann)
Mariah (Werfelmann)
Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The 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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Shine, Jesus, Shine" by Graham Kendrick
(c 1987 Make Way Music)
Song Leaders and Congregation

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me: (refrain)

Sending

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 21-24

Monday: Job 25-27

Tuesday: Job 28-31

Wednesday: Job 32-34

Thursday: Job 35-37

Friday: Job 38-42

Saturday: Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God. —Job 19:25-26

Mini-Sudoku

Each of these two puzzles has four squares. By studying the numbers given, write a number between 1 and 4 in the empty boxes so that each row, column and diagonal have four different numbers, and each of the four boxes has the numbers 1 to 4.

1	2		
4	3		
			3
3		1	2

		1	
3			4
			1
1	3	4	2

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books that are missing vowels?

1. JD, 2. TTS, 3. PTR, 4. JMS, 5. LK, 6. RVLTN, 7. CTS, 8. TMTH, 9. GLTNS, 10. PHLMN.

Answers to Vowel Hunt:

1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
4. James, 5. Luke,
6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
10. Philemon.

Riddles to Share:

1. What month of the year has 28 days? *All of them!*
2. To what question can you never answer yes? *Are you asleep?*
3. David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? *David.*

1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2

4	2	1	3
3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	3	4	2

But the *greatest*



of these is *love*.

1 Corinthians 13:13



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Soup Suppers Begin 2/14/24 @ 6:15

Please consider making soup for your church family on one of the 6 Wednesdays of Lent. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for 20-30 people (may be adjusted as we see attendance trends), along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. There is a sign up sheet in the entry area. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.



Pantry Needs Restocking

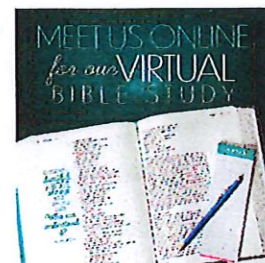


We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup (Can be used with egg noodles to make a meal), Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study Has Begun

"GRATEFUL: Giving Thanks to God in All Things"

We will begin this 4 week Bible Study on **January 17**, ending February 7, before Ash Wednesday. **All 4 of the meetings will be via Zoom.**



It's Girl Scout Cookie Season!



It's time to pre-order your Girl Scout Cookies. You can do so either through the link below or by calling Sheri Eggebraaten at 559-903-1851 or email her at massageby-sheri@aol.com. **Girl Scouts will be here Feb. 18, after service, if you would like to make you purchases in person.**

Here is a direct link: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html>

You can see what's available at [Meet the Cookies | Girl Scouts](#)
Here's the [full lineup](#) for 2024:

Adventurefuls

Caramel Chocolate Chip (gluten-free)

Samoas (aka Caramel deLites)

Do-si-dos (aka Peanut Butter Sandwich)

Girl Scout S'mores

Lemonades

LemonUps

Tagalongs (aka Peanut Butter Patties)

Thin Mints

Toast-Yay!

Toffee-tastic (gluten-free)

Trefoils

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party on 2/13 @ 6:15 in Jacobson



YOU are invited to come celebrate Shrove Tuesday, aka Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday, with our annual Pancake Party! Janet Mc is bringing the ham and her hash brown casserole, and some of the rest of us will be flipping pancakes to be topped by fruit and whipped cream, syrup, and other yummy things. We will have some fun using up all the "fat" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be hidden ALLELUIA letters to search out, pancake races, beads, and a King Cake with baby Jesus hidden inside. Wear your purple, gold, and green, and come have some food and fun! Sign up for items on the signup sheet as you enter

OWLS February 19th @ 1PM

OWLS will gather at ONE PM at Honey baked Ham for a No Host Luncheon for their February 19th meeting. 1056 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno. SandyT will need your RSVP by February 16th, Friday.




FYI—Looking for a Car



We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions. Mary N.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow .



Thanks to All that Pitched In

Thank you to the cooks of the chili and cornbread cookers: Dee, Wilk's, Julie, Steve, Janet, Lisa and anyone else @ GSLC that I might have missed! Oh yes, to the EAT-ERS OF THE CHILI. Special thanks to everyone that stayed to help clean up. Sue H.



Bring a Friend to Worship

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.