

# Order of Worship for January 24, 2021

## Season of Epiphany

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

**Holy God,**

**you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community

living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **KYRIE (spoken)**

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.**

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**

Let us pray. Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

*Written in perhaps 500 BCE, long after the destruction of the Assyrian capital Nineveh, the ironic, even comic, short story of Jonah urges Israel to move beyond narrow religious and ethnic boundaries and to recognize God's mercy toward all people, even their historic enemies. In today's excerpt, God foregoes punishment and forgives.*

1The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” 3So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. 4Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

10When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12**

5For God alone I wait in silence;

truly, my hope is in God.

**6God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

7In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**8Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

9Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low  
estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a  
breath.

**10Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

11God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,  
that power belongs to God.

**12Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

**PSALM SONG: In God Alone (Psalm 62) by Richard  
Bruxvoort-Colligan (video)**

**In god alone is my soul at rest  
Be at rest, my soul**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC** by Shirley Bergman

## **ECUMENICAL PRAYER FOR WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

*January 18-January 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, organized by the World Council of Churches. As part of this week, churches all over the world, from all different denominations, as*

*well as all of the churches of the Jesup Ministerial Association, are praying this prayer as a part of their Sunday worship service.*

Let us pray. **Gracious Lord, we pray for all the members of your holy Church, that all may abide in you and you in them, that they may be one in your love and bear much fruit. We also pray for the world, that all may come to believe in your love for them by the fruit of our witness. We know that our divisions are a source of scandal to your world, and we know that in love we are called to unite as one in the vine and branches. The vine is our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. We are meant to be his branches. Help us we pray, to love, to forgive, to seek justice and to be your prophetic voice in the world. May your grace effect growth of good fruit among us, that our world may realize peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up

advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who provide leadership in our cities, counties, states, and nation, and in countries around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God would guide them to make wise and compassionate decisions, and inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For health care workers, educators, front line workers, and all whose jobs put them at greater risk for Covid-19, we pray for safety and endurance. For scientists, researchers, policy makers, and public health departments, we pray for wisdom as they seek to create and distribute vaccines for Covid-19. For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, especially all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for all organizations, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, using waves or peace signs.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets

to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;

our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,  
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup

with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.

Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they have with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus,  
at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet  
nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news  
and serve others in your name.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✚ keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

**Postlude by Shirley Bergman**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Military members:** Jordan Leach is home from Sheppard AFB TX. Both he and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office

([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

**Prayer Requests:** We know that this is currently an especially stressful time for health care workers and school employees. If you would like to include a healthcare worker or school employee by name (first name only) in the prayers of intercession for this season, please tell Pastor Kristen ([pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or Jessica ([secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org)) or (827-6626).

**COVID-19 Update:** Based on new research regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the Reopening Committee decided that beginning on January 24, worship will be in person until further notice, with all Covid precautions in place. Worship will also be livestreamed on our Facebook Page. In the event that Buchanan County has a week with 2 or more days of 20+ reported cases per day, we will return to online only worship. (More information will be available on our website and in the February LAMP).

## BY THE NUMBERS

### GIVING 1/17:

- CURRENT:	\$ 1,260
- BENEVOLENCE:	\$ 52
- IMPROVEMENT:	\$ 85
- MEMORIAL:	\$ 95

CHECK REGISTER:	\$ 15,023.16
LOAN:	\$ 4,512.27