



4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK
(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Assistant Minister = Blue

Welcome! Words in **bold** are said together.

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. Congregation: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (silence for reflection)

L: God, our rock and refuge, C: 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.

L: 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. C: Amen.

Gathering Song [intro] – Your Grace is Enough

1. Great is Your faithfulness, oh God. You wrestle with the sinner's heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy and nothing can keep us apart.

*Refrain: So remember Your people, remember Your children
Remember Your promise, oh God.*

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

2. Great is Your love and justice God; You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation, and all Your people sing along. *Refrain x2*

Final: Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love, Your grace is enough for me.

Prayer of the Day — Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your 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.

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 p. 153

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 111 p. 490

¹Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 p. 930

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, 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.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact 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. ⁷It 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. ⁸“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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Mark 1:21-28 p. 812

²¹They 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.**

Children's Message

Eileen Dubowski

Sermon

Pastor Curt Matz

Song of the Day – Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Jesus, Lover of my soul, Jesus, You will never let me go.
You've taken me from the miry clay, set my feet upon the rock, and now I know
I love You, I need You, though my world may fall, You never let me go
My Savior, my closest friend, I will worship you until the very end. (*Sing 3x*)

Jesus, Lover of my soul, Jesus, You will never let me go.

Apostle's 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 God's People

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Sharing the Peace – L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the instructions. Giving is secure.



Offering Song – Blessed Be Your Name

1. Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where streams of abundance flow blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.

Refrain: Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:

Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.

2. Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me.
When the world's all as it should be blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering.
Though there's pain in the offering blessed be Your name. *Refrain*

Bridge: You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, Lord blessed be Your name.

Refrain, end with Bridge.

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.**

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Post Communion Prayer

L: 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. C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

Our Father 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.

Announcements

Closing Song – Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,
And may the pray'r of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today. *(Repeat 3x)*

Blessing

L: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. C: Thanks be to God!

Special Thanks to... all who offer their gift of time

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

None

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