

Triune Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!



- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSSION & FORGIVNESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Mighty and loving God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

We seek our own way.

We divide the body of Christ.

In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.

**Let the words of our mouths,
the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do
be filled with faith, hope, and love.**

Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus:
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
to proclaim release to the captives.”

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
I proclaim to you
that your sins are forgiven and you are released.
The joy of the Lord is your strength,
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen!**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

ELW 510

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love, that we may embody your love that you have brought to us in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth;
and the LORD said to me,

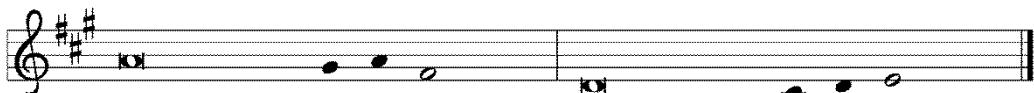
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 71:1-6



¹In you, O LORD, have I | taken refuge;
 let me never be | put to shame.

²In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;

incline your ear to | me and save me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;
 you are my crag | and my stronghold.

⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,

from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor.

⁵For you are my hope, | O Lord GOD,
 my confidence since | I was young.

⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s womb you have | been my strength;

my praise shall be al- | ways of you.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

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

*GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in

Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“He Comes to Us as One Unknown”

ELW 737

***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 INTERCESSION**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We lift up your entire church. As the Holy Spirit, inspire us as we respond to your call. When we are reluctant, strengthen us; when we are doubtful, encourage us. Above all, let your love shine through us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain your entire Creation: for mountains and prairies, cities and farms, rain forests and deserts. Awaken us to the mystery and diversity of this earth. Nurture all living things and protect your Creation from harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Continue to watch over all the nations. Kindle within us a spirit of respect for one another. Protect those fleeing their homes to escape danger or oppression. Bring peace to communities torn apart by warfare and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect those who suffer abuse and encourage those who lack hope. Guide all who provide medical care. Comfort those who grieve and bring healing to the sick, including Joann Loede, Bev Deitrick, Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Cathy Gallagher, Mary Phillips, Richard Jakubcin, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for our family of Triune. Gather us into a community guided by your love. Inspire in us a spirit of hospitality and kindness. Teach us to bear one another's burdens with compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, and who now see you face-to-face. Inspire us by their example and bring us into your everlasting presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” VERSE 1 ELW 674

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all creation,
all you have made is good,
and your love endures forever.
You bring forth bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts,
that we might be for the world
signs of your gracious presence
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

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

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to
the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

Holy Spirit, bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of our Lord.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.
Amen!

***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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.
Feast on God's abundant life for you!
Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN

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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you, O God,
that you have fed us at your banqueting table
with bread and wine beyond compare,
the very life of Christ for us.

Holy Spirit, continue with us now,
that we may set the captive free,
use your gifts to build one another up,
and in everything reflect your glory
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

*BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen!

*SENDING HYMN

“Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak”

ELW 676

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is your light!

Thanks be to God!

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Pastor: ***Brad Ross***

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Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***

Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

Love is Not Envious



The highlights of my life of faith have been times when God comforted and blessed me. Recently, when my wife and I were visiting friends, our 1-year-old snuck away and climbed up a spiral staircase that I'd thought was blocked off. We've never lived in a home with stairs, so I have no idea how he learned to navigate them. After the initial panic of trying to find our toddler, the shock that he could have fallen down the stairs and grievously injured himself settled like a rock in the pit of my stomach. As my wife and I reflected on the incident later, we both felt as if God had protected our little guy—in the words of this week's psalm, had delivered him, rescued him and been a rock of refuge.

We love when God cares for and blesses us. Who wouldn't? But when Jesus returned from the wilderness to his family, friends and neighbors in Nazareth, he deliberately raised the issue that sometimes God blesses other people and not us.

In Luke 4:23, Jesus responds to the crowd speaking well of him by telling them that they would be jealous of the miracles that he had performed elsewhere. Jesus goes on to remind them of times in Scripture when God had blessed people from Sidon and from Assyria rather than the Israelites. This reminder that God isn't limited to blessing one particular in-group, but frequently acts across community lines, seemed calculated to upset the people among whom Jesus grew up. If so, it worked. Some of his listeners were so furious that they attempted to lynch him.

The people of Nazareth were angry because Jesus had reminded them that God is not impressed by the ways in which we organize ourselves and draw boundaries and borders. God told Jeremiah that he would be a prophet "to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5) and had been appointed "over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant" (1:10). Hundreds of years before the advent of Jesus, God framed the salvific mission as deliberately crossing ethnic and political borders.

Jesus only reminded his neighbors in Nazareth that God's beloved community was always intended to be expansive and inclusive. It was no slight to the Israelites that God also loved Assyrians and Sidonians. It is no slight to U.S. citizens that God also loves Guatemalans, Syrians and Somalis.

We can respond to the truth that God loves the whole world as some citizens of Nazareth did, by trying to kill the messenger. Or we can take to heart the words of Jesus, that the Spirit of the Lord anoints us to proclaim good news to those enduring poverty, prison, blindness or oppression, whoever they may be.

The takeaway from this week's lectionary comes from 1 Corinthians 13, the passage read at so many weddings: "Love [and let us not forget that God *is* love] is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way" (13: 4-5). If we want to make Jesus our lord and obey his commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, a good place to start would be suppressing our envy when God showers blessings on others (Matthew 5:45).

If, in pride and selfishness, we try to limit God's blessings to our own community, we are at odds with God's mission in the world. So, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7).



Cory Driver is an adjunct professor of North African history and religion. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University. He is a rostered ELCA deacon waiting for his first call and lives with his family in Valparaiso, Ind. Cory blogs the lectionary readings at corydriver.com

Congregational MEETING



please join us!

A graphic for a congregational meeting. It features the words "Congregational" in blue and "MEETING" in large, bold, dark grey capital letters. Below "MEETING" is the phrase "please join us!" in a black script font. To the left of the text is a simple black icon of a church building with a cross on top and a row of windows below it.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 3, for our next congregational meeting. Like last time, we will gather at 5pm, starting with a pot-luck meal before continuing with the meeting. As always, we will provide the dinnerware, but just let us know if you plan on attending, and, if so, if you plan on bringing something to share (don't forget to bring your own beverage as well). This is a great way to re-connect with each other and to go over anything needed to discuss for our church family!

