

FEBRUARY 4, 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRELUDE

Trumpet Voluntary on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

setting, John Becker ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 617 We Come to You for Healing, Lord

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Text ©2002 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, Text ©1987 Hope Publishing Company; Music:
J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part III, 1813

HOLY COMMUNION

Beautiful Savior

setting, John Leavitt; ©2003 Concordia Publishing House

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878,
alt.; Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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St. Luke
Lutheran
Church

Knowing,
Sharing, and
Celebrating
Christ

Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

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John Bealer
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Dave Janzow
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnyder
Leslie Romasco
Tom Undercuffler
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org
610-367-9738

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

GATHERING HYMN We Come to You for Healing, Lord ELW 617

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.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have 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?
²²It 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;
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely 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.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift 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.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have 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.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the
mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

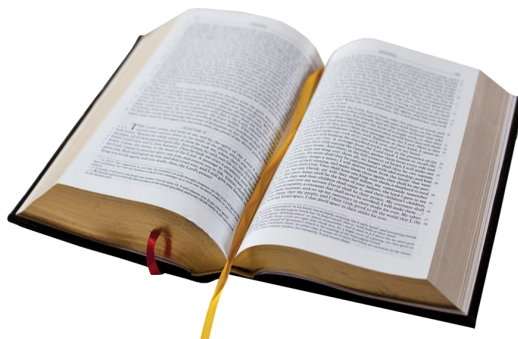
¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.



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

The holy gospel according to Mark 1:29-39

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And 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.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He 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." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE

Dennis Faust

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* **ELW 843**

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using 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.**

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care and give us hope in your promised salvation. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "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.

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup,
shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

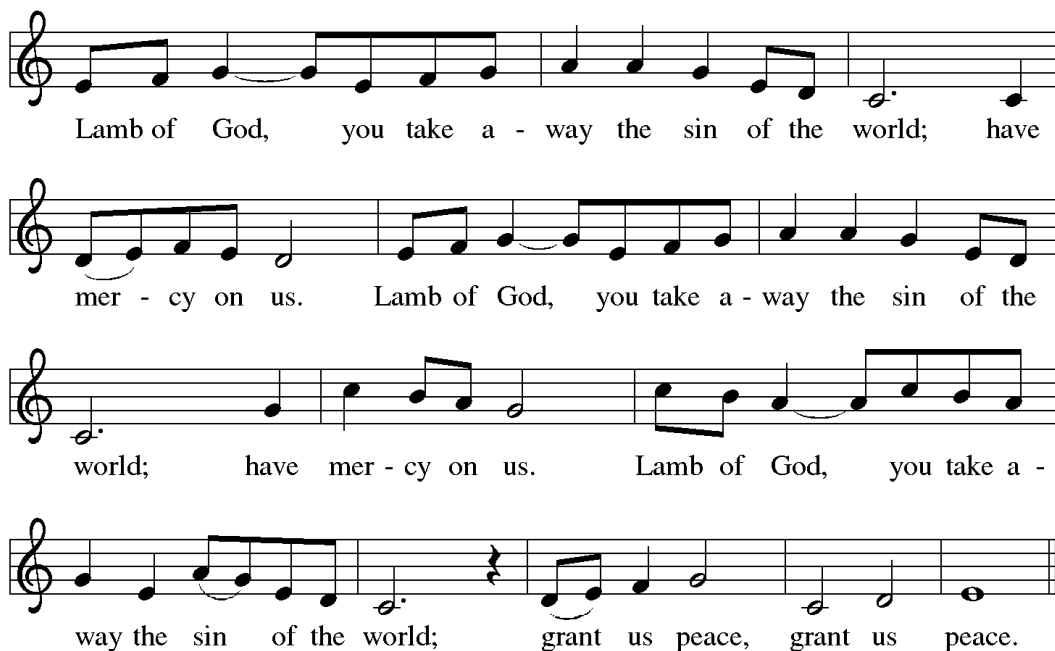
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**



COMMUNION SONG



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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep
you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Please rise in body or spirit.

BLESSING

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved..
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader & Message: Dennis Faust

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Leslie Romasco

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Dave Janzow, Ron Hukari

Sacristan: Val Schlegel

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- ◇ John Durante, recovering from a fall (father of Dave Durante)
- ◇ Paul Moatz, health & healing, (friend of Kathy & Tom Undercuffler)
- ◇ Joanne Rissell, foot surgery (sister of Linda Fronheiser & Cheryl Homa)

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- ◇ Family & friends of Mary Van Dyke (friend of Marsha Staub)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Gloria Christman

Paul McFarland

Marie Geiger

Helen Penketh

Ruth Nice

Cookie Stasik

Jean & Bill Christy

Sponsors:

The bulletins are sponsored by Pam & Mike Ferraro for the glory of God and in honor of their son-in-law Scott Pulliam's birthday.

The sanctuary Lamp and communion elements are sponsored by the family of Roy Geiger, Sr., in loving memory of Dad, and in honor of all past and present who helped make the Gilbertsville scout program some of the greatest scouting programs in the council.

Scout Sunday at St. Luke

Gilbertsville Troop 36 would like to give their thanks to St. Luke for extending their chartering agreement to include prospective Troop 36G. In 2019 the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) moved to allow girls ages 11-17 to join the program. Troop 36G will be a new scout troop under Scouts BSA and will work with the existing boys' Troop 36B to continue the scouting tradition.

For any questions and inquiries, please reach out to Troop 36G Scoutmaster Jennifer Karcewski:
jenniferkarcewski@gmail.com;
(267) 670-2036

Also, to see what we've been doing, feel free to visit our Facebook page at: <http://tinyurl.com/Troop-36-Gilbertsville>

St. Luke Knitters Needed

Hats are needed at the shelter. Yarn is available in the room across from the Pastor's office. If anyone needs a loom, please see Connie Hukari.

Valentine Tree

Warmest Valentine Wishes for Our Veterans. Did you see the Valentine Tree in the Narthex? Dale Shaner and Cindy Bealer teamed up for project. You may take a valentine from the tree that identifies a particular item needed by veterans. Thermal tops and bottoms, sweat pants and sweat shirts in sizes L, XL, 2XL AND 3XL are needed. Put your donation in the bin in the Narthex by February 11. These items will go to veterans in need of warm clothing.



Sponsors

Please contact the church office at 610-367-9738 if you would like to sponsor flowers, communion elements, sanctuary lamp or bulletins for 2024.

Inclement Weather

In the event that we have inclement weather affecting Sunday's worship, a message will be left on the church phone at 610-367-9738. If you hear the "normal" message, church is not cancelled.

Ash Wednesday & Wednesday Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Worship, February 21 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Worship, February 28 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Worship, March 6 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Worship, March 13 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Worship, March 20 at 7:00 pm



Date	Week of Jan. 28-Feb. 3	Location
Sunday, February 4 5th Sun. after Epiphany	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday February 6	3:00 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Wednesday, February 7	CCR Donations 1:00-4:00 pm	CCR
Thursday, February 8	CCR Shopping 6:00-8:00 pm Council Meeting 6:45 pm	CCR Memorial Hall
Friday, February 9	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sun., February 11, 2024	Sun., February 18, 2024
Presiding	Rev. Maggie Ainslie	Pr. Elmer Reinhold
Lector	Connie Hukari	Joe Vendetti
Ushers	Dave Girtan, Ron Hukari	Larry Billger, Terry Conrad
Audio Video	Mike Ferraro	Ron Ball
Office Volunteer	Donna Biehl (Feb. 8)	Cindy Bealer (Feb. 15)
Sacristan	Val Schlegel	Val Schlegel

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our January Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$12,864	\$ 10,467	-\$2,397
Mission Support	\$532	\$ 713	+\$ 181



READER

Epiphany 5

- Today is the **5th Sunday** in the season of Epiphany.
- During Epiphany, we remember our growth through **baptism**.
- We are part of a **family of Christians**.
- Jesus treated everyone like **family**.

How Do You See It?

Jesus welcomed people who others didn't accept. Look at these stars. Which two are alike?

