

JANUARY 21, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

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

PRELUDE

I Love to Tell the Story

setting, Robert Hobby ©2003 MorningStar Music Publishers

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 661 I Love to Tell the Story

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911; Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 696 Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

HOLY COMMUNION

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness

setting, Theodore Beck ©1956 Concordia Publishing House

SENDING HYMN:

ACS 991 Go To the World

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993, Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.;
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, © Oxford University Press

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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

Executive Officers:

Connie Hukari, President
Dave Janzow, Vice President
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

Congregational Council:

John Bealer
Donna Biehl
Donna Conrad
Michael Ferraro

David Girtan
Connie Hukari
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

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

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.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

A reading from Jonah 3:1-5, 10

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 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God 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.

⁸**Put 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.

¹⁰**Put 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.

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

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had

no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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 1:14-20
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

MESSAGE: The Kingdom is Near

The Rev. Tyson Frey

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

ELW 696

Please rise in body or spirit.

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.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we

place our hope in your 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.

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.

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.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
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-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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. All are welcome to commune. Please follow the instructions of the presiding minister.

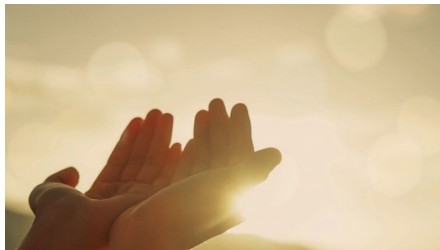
LORD'S PRAYER

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

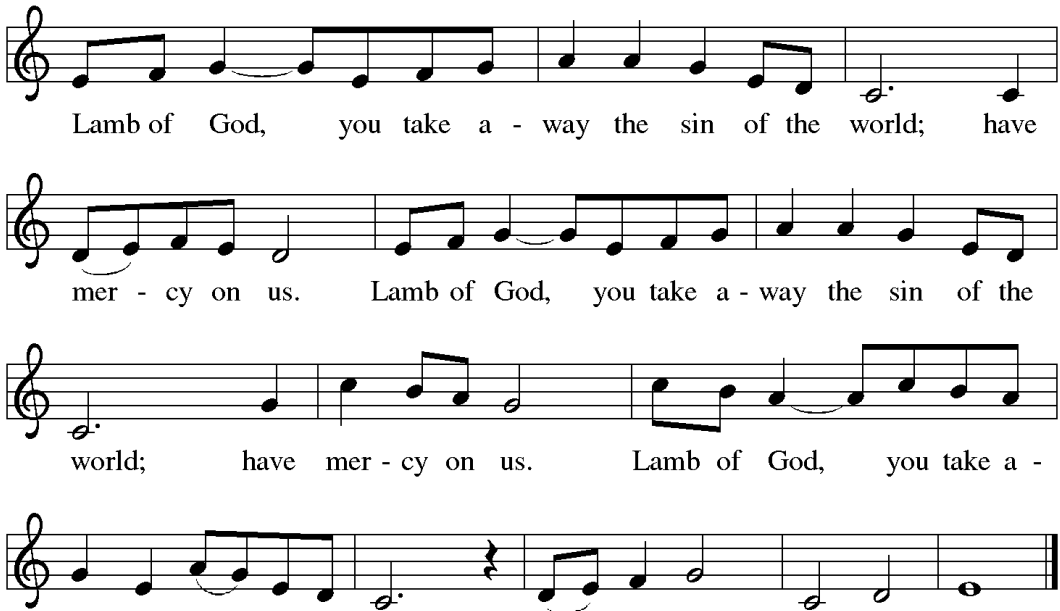
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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

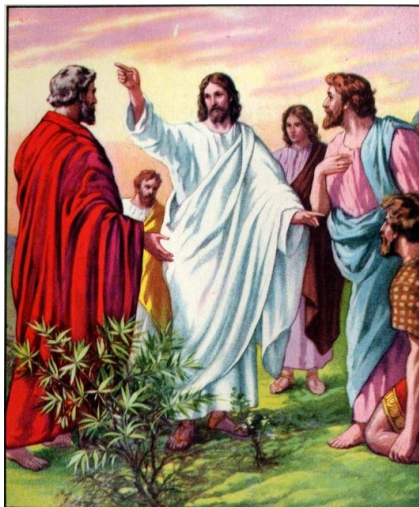
SENDING

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.



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader & Message: The Reverend Tyson Frey

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Ron Ball

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Larry Billger, Terry Conrad

Sacristan: Merrie Gephart

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

◇ Thomas Fleagle, Hospice (brother of Marsha Staub)

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

◇ Family & friends of Ann Rhoads

◇ Family & friends of Bill Lowry (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

Items Needed

During January we are collecting these items for three groups:

We are again collecting gently used towels (bath, hand, washcloths, and kitchen), twin sheets and twin blankets. When a family leaves the shelter they take their towels to their new home. A box is in the Narthex for donations. This is Dave Janzow's Action Team project.

Save those old Christmas and greeting cards for Senior Center at Multi Service. They are needed in the craft room. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

Safe Berks is accepting used suitcases. Please place your donated suitcases in the Narthex.

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.

Annual Reports

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 28. If you haven't sent in your committee report to the church office, please do as soon as possible..

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.



Date	Week of Jan. 21-27	Location
Sunday, January 21 3rd Sun. after Epiphany	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday January 23	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall
Wednesday, January 24	CCR Shopping 1:00 to 4:00pm	CCR
Friday January 26	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sun., January 28, 2024	Sun., February 4, 2024
Presiding	Randy Schlegel	Kathie Afflerbach
Lector	Dave Janzow	Mike Romasco
Ushers	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari	Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow
Audio Video	Ron Ball	Mike Ferraro
Office Volunteer	Cindy Bealer (Jan. 25)	Pat Hallman (Feb. 1)
Sacristan	Merrie Gephart	Val Schlegel

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our December Commitment</u>		<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$16,330	\$ 15,185	-\$1,145
Mission Support	\$680	\$ 770	+\$ 90



READER

Epiphany 4

- Today is the **4th Sunday** in the season of Epiphany.
- During Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus' spreading of the good news to **everyone**.
- The color during Epiphany is **green**.
- Green is the color of **new growth**.

Healed

During Jesus' time, people used different things to heal people than we do now. Which of these items were used in Jesus' time? Which do we use now? Do we still use any of these things today?





Look It Up!

What other miracles happened in Capernaum?
Check out Mark 2:1-12.

Broken Nets

Use the clues to fill in the words below. Then, find the word going down that tells you what Jesus loved doing.

1. Jesus of _____
2. A Jewish place of worship.
3. Jesus went into the synagogue and began to _____
4. He taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the _____
5. A new teaching – and with _____!
6. I know who you are – the Holy _____ of God!
7. The _____ of Mark

