

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 4, 2018



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

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HYMN "Praise the Almighty" LSB 797 vs. 1,2

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION, and INTROIT *Psalm 13:3–6*

P: In today's Introit, David speaks for us as we, God's people, waver between strong faith in Him and fear of other forces. We speak the Introit together as a guide for confession.

All: "I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me."

P: God has blessed us so often!

C: Yet we confess, heavenly Father, that we have wondered about Your care in times of distress. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, our God.

All: "Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed over him,' lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken."

P: God is greater than any foe!

C: Yet we confess, gracious Lord, that at times our faith has been shaky – when You have not answered our prayers immediately, and when pain, sadness, or fear have increased. In our distress, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, O Lord, our God.

All: "But I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation."

P: God has indeed worked salvation for us! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He has conquered sin, death, and the devil. He covers even our doubts and the weaknesses of our faith with Christ's own righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
“I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with
me.”**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Praise the Almighty” *LSB 797 vs 3-5*

- 3** **Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
 Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
 And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
 To all who trust in Him, our Lord
 Will aid and counsel now afford.
 Alleluia, alleluia!**
- 4** **Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
 Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
 Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
 Their faithful God He will remain.
 He helps His children in distress,
 The widows and the fatherless.
 Alleluia, alleluia!**
- 5** **Praise, all you people, the name so holy
 Of Him who does such wondrous things!
 All that has being, to praise Him solely,
 With happy heart its amen sings.
 Children of God, with angel host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
 Alleluia, alleluia!**

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SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, strengthen our faith that we rely on You for all things,

C: and that we be confident of Your almighty power and eternal love in all circumstances;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:21–31

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It 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 dwell in; ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when He blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare Me, that I should be like Him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because He is strong in power not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Have 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. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

P: Praise the Lord, all nations!

C: Extol Him, all peoples!

P: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C: and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

C: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 9:16–27

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own

will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To 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 not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Mark 1:39

P: Alleluia. Jesus went throughout all Galilee,

C: preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:29–39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹ And immediately Jesus left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told Him about her. ³¹ And He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to Him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And He healed 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. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for Him, ³⁷ and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." ³⁸ And He said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" *LSB 398*

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Isaiah 40:22–23, 28–29, 31*

P: Let us pray for people around the world in their various needs and for the Church wherever it gathers around Word and Sacrament.

Isaiah wrote, "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth." Let us ask God's blessings on all who tend fields, flocks, and fisheries, all who protect wildlife and forests, all who tend parks and gardens.

C: Creator Lord, give them a sense of Your presence to bring forth the fruits of Your good creation. Answer their prayers with good weather and bountiful harvests.

P: Isaiah wrote, “(He) stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and brings princes to nothing.” Let us ask God’s blessings on governments and citizens, on armed forces and peacemakers.

C: Lord of heaven and earth, guide and direct those in the powers that be on this earth that they may govern for the benefit of all. Give courage to those who defend freedoms and protect communities. Instill wisdom in those who make, administer, and judge laws in each nation, and those who seek peace across their borders.

P: Isaiah wrote, “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength.” Let us ask God’s blessings on those near and dear to us, on all who are weary and heavy laden, all who struggle in the face of illness or injustice, all mourning the loss of family or friends, employment or home, freedom or opportunity.

C: Strengthening Lord, give them an increase of faith to place their hope in Your power and love. Use doctors and nurses, counselors and emergency workers to answer their prayers with the relief, health, and comfort that fit Your gracious plans for them.

P: Isaiah wrote, “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.” Let us ask God’s blessings on the Church here and around the world, pastors and lay leaders, missionaries and evangelists, teachers and new Christians alike.

C: Lord of the Church, protect Your people against persecution from without and indifference from within; give us all a desire to listen to Your Word, a thirst to serve with the gifts You have placed within us, and a renewal of strength to spread the news of Your gracious salvation.

P: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in Him we see not only Your almighty power to order creation, but also Your steadfast love to work our eternal salvation. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS "Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship" *LSB 949*

1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;
"He who is, who was and will be, God Al-might-y, Lord Most High."
Praise and hon-or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a-lone!



We, with all His hands have fashioned, Fall before the Father's throne.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for in Your great love You were willing to send Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior, and through Your almighty power You made him victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Gathered to receive His body and His blood in this Sacrament, we pray You to keep us strong in faith to receive the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation they bring. Open our eyes to see You by faith until we behold You at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom. To You, heavenly Father, be all glory with the Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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.

AGNUS DEI "Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship" **LSB 949**

2 All cre - a - tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do - min-ion, praise,
Now be His from all His crea - tures And to ev - er - last - ing days!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN "When to Our World the Savior Came" **LSB 551**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have graciously given us strength and showered us with love in this salutary gift,

C: and we ask You thereby to enable us to serve willingly and joyfully in Your name;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord, who made heaven and earth, bless you and keep you. The Lord, who stopped nothing to save you, make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord, whose glory it is always to show love and mercy, look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Almighty Father, Bless the Word" **LSB 923**

Acknowledgments

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THIS WEEK AT CLC — (2/4/18 – 2/11/18)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

Monday: Elders, 6:00pm

Tuesday: Ladies Guild, 6:30pm

Wednesday: Bible Class, 8:30am; 1st year Confirmation, 5:00pm; 2nd year Confirmation, 6:00pm; Trustees, 6:30pm

Thursday: Bethesda Work Day, 1:00pm; Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending January 28, 2018)

General & Building Funds: \$6211.75; Blessings: \$15.83; Road Sign: \$130.00

Attendance: Thursday: 14; Sunday: 135

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

Thank you to all who gave blood during last week's **BLOOD DRIVE**. Lives are being saved by your generosity.

The Ladies Guild is missing a metal liner for one of the big roasters. If someone has borrowed it, please return it as soon as possible. Thank you.

Richard Lobner would like to thank everyone who helped him with his recent move. That includes all those who provided physical labor, moving supplies, prayers, etc. The blessings abound!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to assist with counting the offerings on Sundays. If you are interested please contact Mike Koch or Pastor Wetmore.

OPERATION BABY BOTTLE: Please give all baby bottles (filled and unfilled) to Sandi Michaelis so that they can be returned to Hope Life Center. Thank you for your donations.

LADIES' GUILD WILL MEET this Tuesday at 6:30pm. Carol Gavitt will present a painting class and we will do an art project to take home. Cost of materials is \$5.00 per person.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS FOR CHURCH SERVICES /

ACTIVITIES: Please check Channel 9 TV's website, the CLC website or Facebook page, or call the church at 715-848-2040 and press option "6".

SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES – Ushers, Greeters, Treat Providers, Coffee Servers, Altar Guild Members. Visit Christ Lutheran Church's website, clc-wausau.org, to sign up. A link to SignUpGenius is on the home page and will take you directly to the sign up locations. You can also access the website via the laptop computer located by the Evangelism bulletin board, or let Pastor Wetmore or Peg Piepenburg know that you're interested and we'll get you signed up!

Don't forget: the **FOOD FOR THE BODY** collection boxes are located on the north end of the fellowship hall (by the Seroogy's table.) Non-perishable items are welcomed.

FEBRUARY HUMAN CARE DONATIONS will be going to "The Open Door". Outerwear (coats) and Socks (warm type for winter) are needed.

"LIFE QUOTES" from Lutherans for Life

"[I]f it is wrong to kill a human fetus, it is wrong because this interrupts the vocation of that fetus to praise God and enjoy Him forever, a vocation given it by God Himself in and with the gift of existence, a vocation we may not override for purposes of our own without offending against the rights of God." *Douglas Farrow, author of Desiring a Better Country: Forays in Political Theology* – (www.lutheransforlife.org)