

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
570-398-1676

Sunday, February 4, 2024
5th Sunday after Epiphany



Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.

Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prelude

The assembly stands

GATHERING

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

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 SONG: *We come to You for Healing, Lord 617*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also, with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *Oh, Worship the King 842*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

L: A reading from Isaiah.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Let us read responsively by verse the Psalm.

Psalm: 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. ^{20cl} Hallelujah!

L: A reading from First Corinthians

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation p.205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* 858

THE APOSTLES' CREED p. 105 in the front of the hymnal

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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 (*especially*). God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Calling God, you gift us with talents and passions and send us where they are needed most. Speak to the hearts of all those who are considering joining Camp Mount Luther summer staff as counselors, chaplains, nurses, or other volunteers. Guide their discernment that they may use their God-given gifts to shepherd the spiritual lives of young people. God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

P: 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.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *How Can I Keep from Singing*

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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 *P.206 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

Dialogue (spoken)

Preface by the Pastor

Holy Holy Holy p. 207

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

THE LORD'S PRAYER *P 145 (in the beginning of the hymnal)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond **Amen.**

Communion Song *Lamb of God p. 208*

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

(repeat twice)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

SENDING

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

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 SONG: *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me* 860

DISMISSAL

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

Announcements

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice "open Communion" here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the "real presence" of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving "The Body of Christ."

Remember in prayer: Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Cabe and Cambell McCracken and their parents Crae and Megan, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rev. Michael Burk Presiding Bishop Pro Temp --ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Special thanks to this week's helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers--Ron Brundick and Joyce Braucht; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller–Brayden Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church --Molly Hollick. Flowers-- .

Next weeks' helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers --Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Bob Wehler; Teller–Brayden Wehler Bulletin Sponsor-- Auckers; Children's Church--Pam Wehler; Flowers -- Karen Aucker.

The flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in February is in memory of Gram Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan and Adalynn.

The Lutheran Church Women's **Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons
Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

LOST!! A gold cross with much sentimental value was lost at the church a week or two ago. Please keep your eyes out for it and turn it in to the office.

The Women of the Church wants to determine if there would be any interest in again doing a **Secret Sister exchange**. As last time you would give your secret sister a small inexpensive gift every month and then at the end of the year we would have a little get together for the reveal. You will fill out a questionnaire and we will exchange the forms. Please give Carol Yost or Theresa Levins a call or text if you are interested, and we will plan a get together to do the exchange. Carol Yost 570-295-6335 or Theresa Levins 302-222-8594.

Youth desiring to go to Camp Mt. Luther for the annual Grow in the Snow Synod Youth Event March 15-16, see Pastor Aucker to register. This is for Middle School and High School Youth. **Registration deadline is February 4.**

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH meeting after church on Sunday, February 4, 2024.

Calendar

Sunday, February 4, 2024 5th Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 a.m. Women of the Church Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2024 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

31st anniversary of Pastor Aucker's Ordination

6:00 p.m. Council

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 6:30 p.m. choir

Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes

Friday, February 9, 2024 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Food Distribution

Sunday, February 11, 2024 Transfiguration Sunday

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

Lent/Easter Dates

February 13, Fasnacht Dinner provided by the youth. 6:00 pm.

Pastor will offer a PowerPoint on Lent.

February 14, Ash Wednesday Services, 6:00 am and 7:00 pm

February 21, Lent 1 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm

February 28, Lent 2 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 6, Lent 3 at Grace Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 10, Healing Service on Sunday morning, 9:30 am

March 13, Lent 4 at St. John Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 20, Lent 5 at Garman Lutheran at 7:00 pm

March 24, Sunday of the Passion, Reading Passion of St. Mark, 9:30 am

volunteer readers needed. Sign-up sheet on the tower bulletin board

March 28, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm

March 29, Good Friday, St. James, 7:00 pm

March 30, Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am

March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord, 6:00 am and 9:30 am

April 7, Holy Humor Sunday, 9:30 am

PAUL SURE
IS ABOUT
ADAPTABILITY.

ABSOLUTELY

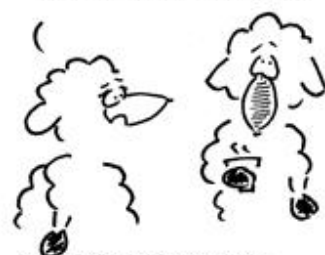


WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

SHARING THE GOSPEL
WAS PARAMOUNT FOR
HIM. HE STOPPED AT
NOTHING.



I FEEL LIKE RICH
PEOPLE NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT JESUS.



1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

The ELCA Global Missions Department is offering a five-week program on the Holy Lands with a video and discussion each week of Lent. If you are interested in watching the videos from home, contact Pastor Aucker and he will forward the email with the video link to you.