

# OUR PATH OF WORSHIP

Epiphany 4 - January 25 & 28, 2024

## SERVICE THEME ~ Epiphany: The Builder of a Better House

*Liturgy: Setting 2; To prepare for receiving the Lord's Supper please review Christian Questions (p. 295 in the blue hymnal). Personal prayers are found on the inside cover.*

### HYMN 698 🎵 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

*sts 1,2,4*

- 1 Seek where you may to find a way that leads to your salvation.  
My heart is stilled, on Christ I build, he is the one foundation.  
His Word is sure, his works endure; he overthrows all evil foes;  
through him I more than conquer.
- 2 Seek whom you may to be your stay, none can redeem another.  
All helpers failed; this man prevailed, the God-man, Christ our brother.  
This Servant-Lord our life restored; we're justified, for he has died,  
the guiltless for the guilty.
- 4 My heart's delight, my crown most bright, O Christ, you are forever.  
Not wealth or pride or fortune's tide our bond of love shall sever.  
You are my Lord; your precious Word shall light my way each daunting day.  
O teach me, Lord, to trust you!

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STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## OPENING LITANY

M: I love the house where you live, O Lord,

C: the place where your glory dwells. *(Psalm 26:8)*

M: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze  
upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. *(Psalm 27:4)*

M: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the  
tents of the wicked. *(Psalm 84:10)*

M: I rejoiced with those who said to me,

C: "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *(Psalm 122:1)*

M: Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord.

**C: Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.**     *(Psalm 134:1-2)*

M: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

**C: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**                     *(Psalm 23:6)*

M: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father,

For calling us to faith through your Word

and bringing us together in the body of Christ;

For awakening us to the urgency of your mission;

For the privilege of taking your Word into all the world;

**C: We give you humble thanks and praise.**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

M: Brothers and sisters, we are not naïve about the sin in our lives. We admit that we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. But by God's eternal grace and love for us in Christ Jesus, we come before the Lord, confessing our sins, and seeking his mercy.

**C: Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: In peace let us praise the Lord.

**C:   ♪ Glory be to him who loved us, washed us from each spot and stain;  
glory be to him who bought us, made us kings with him to reign!  
Glory, glory to the Lamb that once was slain!**

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## **THE WORD**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:   And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**M:** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:   Amen.**

### **BE SEATED**

### **FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 18:15–20**

#### **“Building a Better House Begins with a Better Prophet”**

<sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup>For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

<sup>17</sup>The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. <sup>19</sup>I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. <sup>20</sup>But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:   Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING – Hebrews 3:1–6**

### **“Christ Jesus has Built a Better House”**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. <sup>2</sup>He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house. <sup>3</sup>Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup>For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. <sup>5</sup>“Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. <sup>6</sup>But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

STAND

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Mark 1:22*

M: Alleluia. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia.

## **GOSPEL – Mark 1:21–28**

### **“Jesus Taught with Authority”**

<sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup>The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup>Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup>“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

<sup>25</sup>“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup>The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” <sup>28</sup>News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

## HYMN 744 Rise, Shine, You People



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -  
All men and wom - en, who by guilt are  
To all the world go out and tell the  
Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

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## SERMON TEXT – John 21:15-17

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?”

He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

**SERMON THEME – "What Has St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Been Doing These Past 151 Years?"**

- 1. By God's Grace, a Lot of Loving**
- 2. By God's Grace, a Lot of Caring**

STAND

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

BE SEATED

**OFFERING** Please fill out the Friendship Register.

*After the choir sings, please stand and sing the offering hymn.*

**CHOIR SELECTION** 🎵 **In This Fellowship of Faith** (words on PowerPoint screen)

STAND

**OFFERING HYMN 608** 🎵 **Glory Be to God the Father**

*st. 1*

**1 Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,  
glory be to God the Spirit: great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory while eternal ages run!**

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### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Dear heavenly Father, your peace and loving kindness towards us is especially evident today. We thank and praise you for creating your Church and for giving life to this congregation through the power of your Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: We give thanks to you for the blessings you have given to our congregation these 151 years. We've rejoiced in times of blessed harmony and grieved in times of discord. Forgive us for our lack of faith and fill us with a forgiving love for those within and outside of our fellowship. Send us your Holy Spirit. Work in our hearts that we may not be obstacles, but channels for the coming of your kingdom to a lost and evil world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: We praise you that we live in a prosperous land blessed by you. We have shared in that prosperity both as individuals and as a congregation. Grant us further blessings as you choose, so that we may have what we need to do your will. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: We praise you for the companionship of friends and neighbors, for the opportunity to live in harmony and work together for the good of society. Keep us from selfishness, indifference, and prejudice. Make us ever grateful for the peace, justice, and good order we enjoy as members of this community. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: Bless the officials of our village, county and state. Give them the gifts required for leadership and fill them with a love for our community and its people. Teach us to honor them as your representatives and make their service to our community a joy for them and a blessing for us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

M: We especially pray for the members of this church who are, at times, attacked by trials and losses. We especially pray for those who are ill or suffering from some great care or need.

*[Special prayers and intercessions may follow]*

Keep us strong in the faith and give us the wisdom of perspective under your all-seeing, all-caring, all-protective eye. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer. Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

### **THE SACRAMENT**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



**C:** ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power, God of might.  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.

**Jesus, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)**

*CW 186*

**C:** ♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. Amen.

BE SEATED

**DISTRIBUTION**

**HYMN 856 ♪ Built on the Rock**

**1** Built on the Rock the Church shall stand even when steeples are falling.  
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land; bells still are chiming and calling,  
calling the young and old to rest, but above all the soul distressed,  
longing for rest everlasting.

- 2 Surely in temples made with hands God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
high above earth his temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.  
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above chooses to live with us in love,  
making our bodies his temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones, built for his own habitation.  
He through baptismal grace us owns heirs of his wondrous salvation.  
Were we but two his name to tell, yet he would deign with us to dwell  
with all his grace and his favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes, telling how God has received us.  
Th' altar recalls Christ's sacrifice and what the sacrament gives us.  
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim  
Christ yesterday, today, the same, and evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant then, O God, your will be done,  
that, when the church bells are ringing,  
many in saving faith may come where Christ his message is bringing:  
"I know my own; my own know me. You, not the world, my face shall see.  
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

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#### STAND

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C: his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### BE SEATED

# HYMN 868 By Faith

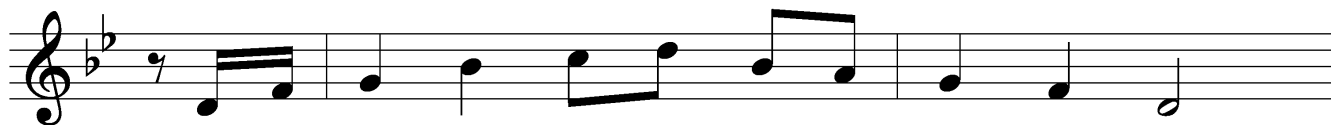
sts. 1-2, Ref, 4



1 By faith we see the hand of God  
2 By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth  
4 By faith the church was called to go



in the light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign,  
with the pow'r of his prom - ise in their hearts,  
in the pow'r of the Spir - it to the lost



in the lives of those who prove his faith - ful - ness,  
of a ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,  
to de - liv - er cap - tives and to preach good news



who walk by faith and not by sight. v. 2  
a place where peace and jus - tice reign. *Refrain*  
in ev - 'ry cor - ner of the earth. *Refrain*



We will stand as chil - dren of the prom - ise; we will fix our



eyes on him, our soul's re - ward. Till the race is fin - ished and the



work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

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Accompanist: Lisa Meissner*

*Acknowledgments: Setting Two from Christian Worship*

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