

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

The Confessional Service with Holy Communion

+ Prelude

+ Hymn of Invocation – #16

“Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word”

+ The Invocation – pg. 46ff (*stand*)

+ Versicles & Responses

+ INTROIT *Ps. 1:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 1:6*

*For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

**Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

*but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.*

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

*The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.*

**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

*For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.*

+ The Confessional Address or Exhortation – pg. 47

+ The Corporate Confession of Sins and Absolution – pg. 47-48

+ The Collect for the Day

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ The Old Testament Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the
LORD,

and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his
people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of
slavery,

and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember what Balak king of
Moab devised,

and what Balaam the son of Beor answered

him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the
LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of
rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I
give my firstborn for my
transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my
soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

+ The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who
are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the
wise,

and the discernment of the discerning
I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since,
in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it
pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ
crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who
are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom
of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of
God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according
to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose
what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and
despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that
are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is

the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

+ The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

+ The Nicene Creed – pg. 22

+ Hymn #367

"Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus"

+ Sermon – "In Return for the Righteous Acts of the Lord"

Micah 6:4-6, 8

I. Remember the Lord's righteous acts.

II. Come before the Lord with justice, kindness, and humility.

+ The Offertory – pg. 22 (*stand*)

+ The Offerings

+ The Preface ~ The Agnus Dei – pg. 24-28

+ Distribution Hymns

#307 - "Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord"

#399 - "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"

#54 - "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

+ The Nunc Dimittis – pg. 29

+ The Thanksgiving – pg. 30

+ Post-Communion Collect – pg. 30

+ The Salutation & The Benedicamus – pg. 31

+ The Benediction – pg. 31

+ Closing Hymn - #54 (7:00 p.m.)

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

+ SOLI DEO GLORIA +

DAILY READINGS: January 29: Zech. 8:1–23; 2 Tim. 1:1–18; 30: Zech. 9:1–17; 2 Tim. 2:1–26; 31: Zech. 10:1–11:3; 2 Tim. 3:1–17; February 1: Zech. 11:4–17; 2 Tim. 4:1–18; 2: Zech. 12:1–13:9; Titus 1:1–2:6; 3: Zech. 14:1–21; Titus 2:7–3:15; 4: Job 1:1–22; John 1:1–18.

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