

January 27-28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



**Committed to a  
Higher Purpose**



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)



## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*From Jordan's Shores to Mountain Glory—  
Committed to a Lofty Charge*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Holy Spirit, you set us apart in faith from the rest of the world. Turn our eyes to see your blessings, celebrate your grace, and serve you in every opportunity. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** To whom does the work of salvation belong? Christ alone, of course. But Jesus gives our lives meaning and purpose by calling us to share in spreading the good news of his work. Jesus calls all believers to serve as his ambassadors, sharing the gospel with whomever he brings into our sphere of influence. This lofty charge requires commitment—a willingness to abandon everything else if necessary. Jesus has committed us to a lofty charge: his witnesses to the world.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” Around the age of thirty, the fuller truth about Jesus began to be revealed: his person, his power, and his purpose. It started with Jesus standing in the Jordan River with John the Baptist. The biggest epiphany took place at a mountain, where select followers saw Jesus shining brighter than the sun. In this season of Epiphany, as we follow Jesus from Jordan's shores to mountain's glory, may they change us too.

**A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION:** Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Paige Reiners

Vocalists: Lydia Mattson, Abigail Ibsch, Luke Dorn

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org) + 651-439-7831

[church@salemlutheran.org](mailto:church@salemlutheran.org)

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## HYMN: O Christians, Haste

CW 901 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 O Chris - tians, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
2 Be - hold how man - y thou - sands still are ly - ing  
3 Pro - claim to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion



to tell to all the world that God is light,  
bound in the drear - y pris - on - house of sin  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
with none to tell them of the Sav - ior's dy - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
or of the life he died for them to win.  
and died on earth that they might live a - bove.

### *Refrain*



Pub - lish glad ti - dings, ti - dings of peace,



ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** (*Psalm 32*)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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.**

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only 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.**

*Be seated.*

### Hymn Response: My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

CW 818


*First verse will be sung by a soloist.*




1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;  
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp-ta - tions;  
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly;



a for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be  
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -  
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and  
 va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't  
 mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on  
 set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in  
 sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.  
 which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.  
 curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



O praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

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.**

## First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5,10

*The reluctant prophet Jonah had been given the lofty charge of proclaiming a message from the LORD to the people of Nineveh.*

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## (10:30am) Come Be the Light

*Jubilate Children’s Choir*

1. Come be the light, come be the joy,  
come be the hope the world needs to know.  
Come be the voice of kindness and truth  
sharing the peace of Christ wherever you go.
2. Praise God with a song of gladness  
ringing out to the skies above.  
Lift your light and let it shine  
so the world may know God’s love.
3. Come be daring as you strive to love one another.  
Come be bold, and be courageous in God’s grace.  
With hands to serve and gifts to share, come show the world  
how Christ would care for all God’s people, everywhere
4. Come be the light, come be the joy,  
come be the hope the world needs to know.  
Come be the voice of kindness and truth  
sharing the peace of Christ wherever you go.
5. Praise God with a song of gladness  
ringing out to the skies above.  
Lift your light and let it shine  
so the world may know God’s love.

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

*Christ has committed to us, his ambassadors, the message of reconciliation.*

<sup>11</sup>Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. <sup>12</sup>We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup>If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup>For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

*When Jesus gave Simon and Andrew the lofty charge of fishing for people, they left everything else behind.*

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup>“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” <sup>16</sup>As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>19</sup>When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. <sup>20</sup>Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

Hymn of the Day: I Hear the Savior Calling

CW 743



1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;  
 2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,  
 3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:  
 4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;  
 5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see  
 a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.  
 to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.  
 from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.  
 each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,  
 The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree  
 Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key  
 Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,  
 And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!  
 that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!  
 we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!  
 be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!  
 pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

Sermon

Based on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

“Crazy in Christ”

- 1) Compelled by Christ's love
- 2) Created in Christ's image
- 3) Committed to Christ's message

Please stand after the sermon.



# THANKSGIVING

## *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 truly 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*



Connect Card

*Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.*

*We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.*



Give Online

*Please stand.*

## *Prayer of the Church*

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.*

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 reveled 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:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,

bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

### 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  $\dagger$  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  $\dagger$  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.

### O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

## Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

## Distribution Hymn: Take my Life and Let it Be CW 695 sts. 1-3, 5-6



1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no long - er mine;  
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure store;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy roy - al throne.  
take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

## Response of Thanksgiving

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

C: His mercy endures forever.

*Psalm 118:1*

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

## Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Blessing

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.

## HYMN: I Love to Tell the Story

CW 746 sts. 1, Ref, 2



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,

2 The Sav - ior of all peo - ple has brought his peace to you;



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
now go and tell the sto - ry, for oth - ers need it too.



I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;  
To ev - 'ry land and na - tion ring out the gos - pel call;



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
pro - claim that Christ is ris - en and grants his peace to all.

### Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version<sup>®</sup>, NIV<sup>®</sup>. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.<sup>™</sup> Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

*The flowers on the altar this morning are from the Shah family in memory of Eliana's 9th birthday.*



**Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

**For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: The Devil's Work Undone

Bible Readings: Isaiah 40:27-31, 1 Peter 5:6-11, Mark 1:29-39

Hymns: 836, 850, 867, 924

NEW MEMBER POTLUCK  
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Sunday, February 4th, Salem will celebrate the new members who joined our church in 2023 with a welcome at the 10:30am service. After that service we'll hold a potluck dinner for all. If you are able to join us, please let us know on the signup sheet in the church entry.

## **PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

---

## *For our guests*

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## *For those with young children*

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

