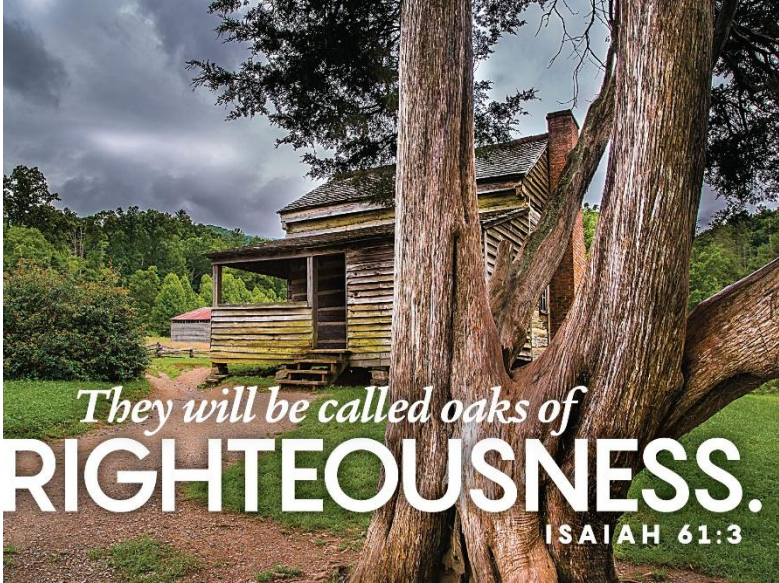


ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Third Sunday in Epiphany



WELCOME To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world.

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about our beliefs and practices, please see the pastor. He will be glad to visit with you at your convenience. Be sure to join us again.



Member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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Pre-Service Meditation:

Acts 4:29²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You sent Your Spirit among the early church to grant them courage in proclaiming the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Lord, we ask that You would do the same to us. As we bring the Gospel to those around us, including those of our own family, we ask for courage and boldness to do what You have called us to do, knowing that You will bless the work of our hands. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, world without end. Amen.

Service of the Word

Opening Hymn

TLH 390 Drawn to the Cross

Invocation

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Confession and Absolution

WS pg 12

- P** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C** Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
 You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. . .
- . . . through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-6

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the

planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁵ Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶ but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19 [Selected Verses]

- P** The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- C** Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
- P** The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
- C** the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
- P** Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- C** Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
- P** Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- C** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Epistle Lesson

Luke 4:16-30

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² And all spoke well of

him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴ And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away.

Confession of Faith:

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 is seated at the right
hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

Hymn: TLH 370 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Sermon: Acts 4:23-31

²³When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. ²⁴And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵who through the mouth of our father

David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed'-- ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

A Prayer For Boldness...

Offertory:

Create in Me ♪♪

Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen

Hymn:

TLH 457 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer & 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

Benediction

C Amen.

Hymn: **LSB 706 Love in Christ is Strong and Living**

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Announcements

Upcoming Events:

- **ILC Tour Choir:** March 20th we will be hosting the ILC Tour Choir for a concert here at church.

'Call News:

- Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, SD and Hidewood Township, SD **is considering the call** to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Mt View, CA.
- Pastor Sam Naumann **is considering the call** to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Fruits of Faith at Ascension:

DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
12/29/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 765.00
1/5/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 740.00
1/12/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 882.00
1/12/2024	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 805.00

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, February 2nd Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30

Sunday, February 9th Ascension Communion Service at 11:30

Sunday, February 16th Ascension Sunday Service at 11:30