

Sunday Worship Service – January 26, 2025

Setting 5 – Bread of Life – With One Voice

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *“Arise, Your Light Has Come!”* #652 WOV

1. **Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**
2. **Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

3. **Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**
4. **Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie (page 28 WOV)

Kyrie eleison:

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison:

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise (page 29 WOV)

Refrain: **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

1. **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**
(Refrain)
2. **Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**
(Refrain)
3. **For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Last Refrain: **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Opening the Epiphany Treasure Chest

Call children to come forward to view.

On this third Sunday after Epiphany bring forth this symbol, a sign of the revelation of Christ who is present in our midst as we gather on this day.

(The symbol is removed from the box and placed on the table. An explanation of the symbol is given.)

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

All the people gathered together in the area in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Instruction scroll from Moses, according to which the LORD had instructed Israel.

So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Instruction before the assembly. This assembly was made up of both men and women and anyone who could understand what they heard. Facing the area in front of the Water Gate, he read it aloud, from early morning until the middle of the day. He read it in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and everyone listened attentively to the Instruction scroll.

Standing above all of the people, Ezra the scribe opened the scroll in the sight of all of the people. And as he opened it, all of the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all of the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while raising their hands. Then they bowed down and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

They read aloud from the scroll, the Instruction from God, explaining and interpreting it so the people could understand what they heard.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all of the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Don’t mourn or weep.” They said this because all the people wept when they heard the words of the Instruction.

“Go, eat rich food, and drink something sweet,” he said to them, “and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready! This day is holy to our LORD. Don’t be sad, because the joy from the LORD is your strength!”

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink.

Certainly the body isn’t one part but many. If the foot says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not a hand,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? If the ear says, “I’m not part of the body because I’m not an eye,” does that mean it’s not part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted.

If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? But as it is, there are many parts but one body. So the eye can’t say to the hand, “I don’t need you,” or in turn, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren’t presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. The parts of our body that are presentable don’t need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor so that there won’t be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.

You are the body of Christ and parts of each other. In the church, God has appointed first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, the ability to help others, leadership skills, different kinds of tongues. All aren’t apostles, are they? All aren’t prophets, are they?

All aren't teachers, are they? All don't perform miracles, do they? All don't have gifts of healing, do they? All don't speak in different tongues, do they? All don't interpret, do they? Use your ambition to try to get the greater gifts. And I'm going to show you an even better way.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation *"From the True Light"*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! From the true Light there arises for us
the light which illumines our darkened eyes.
And his glory shines upon the world
and enlightens the very depths of the abyss. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading: Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it."

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: When the Scroll is Opened

Hymn of the Day *“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”* #716 WOV

1. **Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav’n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you..**
2. **Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav’n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.**
3. **Word that caused blind eyes to see,
speak and heal our mortal blindness;
deaf we are: our healer be;
loose our tongues to tell your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken,
heal the world, by our sin broken.**
4. **Word that speaks God’s tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

Apostles’ Creed

Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession¹

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery (*especially...*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world, especially fellowship hosts, worship leaders and musicians, council and committee members. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died, especially Audrey Hedlin. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

¹ *Prayers of Intercession* from **Sundays and Seasons** © 2024 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Presentation of the Gifts (page 35 WOV)

As we present our gifts to God, we sing the Offertory “Let the vineyards”
(An Offering Plate is placed on the Altar and the Creedance Table is moved)

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
 and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
 Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
 unite them with the prayers we offer now.
 Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
 and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you,
**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have
 blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service
 and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have
 made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (sung) (page 36 WOV)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.
 By your powerful word you created all things.
 Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.
 Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness
 and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
 and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
 he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
 his preaching and healing, his dying and rising,
 and his promise to come again,
 we await that day when all the universe
 will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
 we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy
 Spirit, in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Invitation and Instructions

Communion Distribution (begin with communing the online congregation)

Hymn during Communion “Lamb of God” (page 39 WOV)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Hymn during Communion “As the Grains of Wheat” #705 WOV

**Refrain: As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

- 1. As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. (Refrain)**
- 2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
When all creation shares this feast with you. (Refrain)**

Hymn during Communion “One Bread, One Body” #710 WOV

**Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

- 1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more. (Refrain)**
- 2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. (Refrain)**
- 3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. (Refrain)**

Communion Blessing

May the precious body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you, and keep you in his grace now, and unto life everlasting.

Post-Communion Canticle (page 40 WOV)

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.
Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Benediction Song “*May the Grace of Christ Attend Us*” (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen