



**Community of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 26, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**  
**Pastor Stephen C. Bond**



**THE GATHERING**

**Welcome**

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Cortège” by Gordon Young

Eric Dickey

**10:00 a.m.**

“The Kingdom” by Andre Thomas

Choir

Solo, Dick Burdo

**WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM**

“Confession and Forgiveness”

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, so that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

“O Zion, Haste”

**ELW 668**

## Greeting

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



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



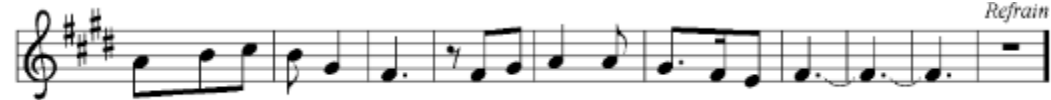
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



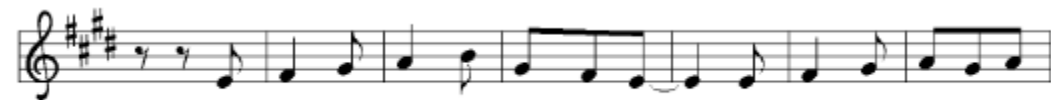
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



### 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. **P Amen.**

### Childrens Sermon

**Anthem (8:00 a.m.)**

“This Will Be the Year”

Pastor Stephen Bond

**10:00 a.m.**

“Be Ye Glad”

Choir

## THE READINGS

### The First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-10

<sup>11</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” **L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**

## The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

**L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!**

*Congregation:*



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

## **The Holy Gospel: Luke 4:14-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to....**C Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Sermon**

*"The Jesus Agenda"*

*Pastor Stephen Bond*

**Hymn**

“We Are Marching in the Light”

**ELW 866**

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

**C 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.**

## WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

**P** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM** 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.**

**AM** 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.**

**AM** 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.**

**AM** 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; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Paula Gruhler, Virginia Dillon, Becky King, Staci, Eric Lewis, Sam Kenney, Nathan Dippilo, Lauren Bradford, Jason Rupp, Jack Shultt, Dorothy Petrell....** and all those we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

**AM** 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

## THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A "gluten-free" host option is available upon request as well.

### Sharing of the Peace

**P** The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** And also with you!

*Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.*

*The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.*

**Our Tithes and Offerings** Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.

### Offering Prayer

**AM** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And al - so with

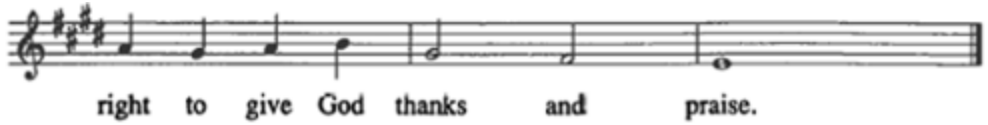
you. Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the Lord. Let us give

thanks to the Lord our God. It is

Presider: Congregation:

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff is for the Presider and the Congregation. The second and third staves are for the Presider. The fourth staff is for the Congregation. The lyrics are written below the notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.



**\*\*The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

**HOLY**

*Congregation:*

A series of five staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major, and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!"

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**The Words of Institution**

*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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.*



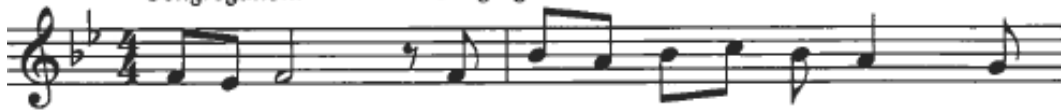
## The Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray... **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.

## Communion Hymns


“Lamb of God”

*Congregation:*                      *Congregation or Assistant:*




Lamb of God,                      you take a - way the sin of                      the  
you break the chains of ha - tred                      and  
you are the way of jus - tice                      and  
you are the way of mer - cy                      and

*Congregation:*



world:                      have mer - cy on us,                      mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**  
*Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy                      on                      us.                      Lamb of God,                      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of                      the world:                      grant                      us peace,



grant                      us peace,                      grant                      us                      peace.

**Hymn**

“One Bread, One Body”  
“Christ, Be Our light”

**ELW 496**  
**ELW 715**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**AM** Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ, we pray,  
**Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

#### ***Milestones & Announcements:***

#### **The Blessing**

**P** The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn**

“We All Are One in Mission”

**ELW 576**

#### **Dismissal**

**AM** Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

**AM** And next week, C Bring a friend!

## **“Making Jesus Known”**

**Welcome to Community of Christ!** Our family welcomes you to the house of the Lord today! We ask God to bless His Holy Word and Sacrament today so that his people might receive strength for living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!

**We WELCOME YOU** to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

#### **When God Breaks the Rules: A Thursday Afternoon Bible Study**

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? This is what we are looking at in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study series.

Join us for our new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We are learning about how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus' love. Join us this Thursday **at 1:00 p.m.** in the council room for our journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! All are welcome!

### **Adult Sunday School Series: "Jesus—The Wonder Years"**

What would it have been like to raise the child Jesus? Have you ever wondered what Jesus' childhood was like, or why there are so few stories from that part of his life? And with the handful of stories we do have from the Bible, what do they mean and why do they matter for our lives? In our new series for our Sunday morning Adult Class, we will look at important episodes from the early life of Jesus across the gospels, in what we do—and don't—know. Join us for these conversations from 9:15-9:45 a.m. (between services) on Sunday mornings:

- Jan. 26—The Presentation in the Temple, Part 1
- Feb. 2—The Presentation, Part 2 (Simeon and Anna)
- Feb. 9—No Class—Congregational Breakfast in the fellowship hall
- Feb. 16—the Child Jesus in the Temple

Join us for any or all of these studies on Sunday mornings here at Community of Christ this January and February!

### **Join Us for Conversation and More!**

Starting this February, we invite you to gather at the church with both old and new friends for a variety of fun activities: Catch up and connect with others, enjoy drinks and light snacks, play games and cards (euchre, anyone?), team up for jigsaw puzzle challenges, lend a hand with Visitation Ministry projects, get some light exercise with a walk through the halls, share your ideas for future activities. Feel free to bring a neighbor or a friend—more people means more fun!

**Dates: February 11th, 1-3 PM and February 21st, 1-3 PM.** Don't worry if you miss the sign-up—you're still welcome to join! Sign up at the kiosk or contact the office with any questions. We can't wait to see you there!

**Pancakes, egg bakes, and donuts oh my!** Bring your friends and your appetites, as the Outreach Committee and friends will be hosting a breakfast between services on **Sunday, February 9th**. Funds raised in the free-will offering will support our efforts to provide monthly breakfast treats to the faculty and staff at one of the area AW schools.

## Toolbox Ministry Furnace Project

We are thrilled to announce that the donations for the Toolbox Furnace Project have exceeded our expectations! A little over \$6,000 was raised, and we are deeply grateful for your generous donations. The excess funds will support our next community project, furthering our mission and outreach efforts. Thank you for your compassion, support, and commitment to making a difference and “Making Jesus Known” in what we do!

## 2024 Church Offering Statements Now Available for Pick-Up!

Your 2024 offering statements are now available for pick-up! They are located on the table in the gathering space for your convenience. Please take a moment to grab yours after service or stop by the church office during regular office hours. Please get in touch with the office to make arrangements if you prefer your statement to be mailed. Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

**Fellowship Invites you to participate in our 1st Community of Christ Chili Cook-Off** on Sunday, February 23rd right here after service. Sign-ups to compete are on the kiosk. Sign up with your name # and email by Sunday, February 9th. There is also a separate sign-up sheet for those not participating in the competition who want to be a taster and vote for their favorite chili. All are welcome to taste, and vote for our C of C Chili Cook-Off winner.



**Altar Flowers are given by Doris Disher in Honor  
of Amy's Birthday ♡♡**

**What's Happening  
This Week?**



<b>Choir Practice</b>
Wednesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Pastor's Bible Study</b>
Thursday, January 29, 1:00 p.m.
<b>Bell Choir</b>
Thursday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Church Council Retreat</b>
Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
<b>AW Area Youth Minute-to-Win-It Game Night</b>
Sunday, February 2, 4 pm. – 6 p.m. @ HUMC