



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude
10:00 a.m.

“Trio En Chaconne” by Andre Raison
“Take My Life”

Eric Dickey
The Band

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

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

ELW 717

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



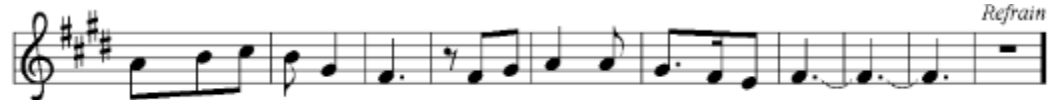
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



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



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **P Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

10:00 a.m.

“Is There Room for a Sinner” by Pepper Choplin

Choir

Tina Baden, Flute

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

5 Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

10 I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

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

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised,

then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 6:17-26

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

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the

prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

Sermon

Vicar Natalie Downs

Hymn

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW 726

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 Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way; **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, Diane O’Konski, Lisa Boltz, Eric Lewis, Phillip Hart, Lyle Hecklinger...** and all that we remember in silence. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. 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.*

10:00 a.m.

“Trumpets & Angels Sing”

The Band

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

The musical score for "The Great Thanksgiving" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music. The first system is for the Presider, and the second through fifth systems are for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "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 right to give God thanks and praise."

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with

Presider: you. *Congregation:* Lift up your hearts. We

lift them to the Lord. *Presider:* Let us give

Congregation: thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

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

HOLY

The musical score for "Holy" is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of one system of music for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

Congregation: 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.

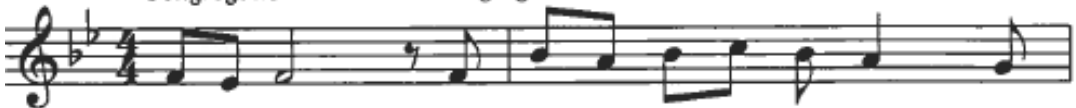
The Lord's Prayer

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

“Jesus, the Very Thought of You”
“Dona nobis pacem”

ELW 754
ELW 753

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 Know That Christ Is Raised”

ELW 449

Dismissal

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

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

Postlude (10:00 a.m.)

“Shine Jesus Shine”

The Band



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!

Walking the Jesus Way: Lessons from the Didache

It's not just about hearing Bible verses on Sunday only to have them go in one ear and out the other, but about a way of life—a life shaped in Jesus' likeness. So, what could it look like to live the Jesus way of life today? And what wisdom can we gather from the early disciple community? That's what our Sunday Adult Forum will be exploring in our next series, **beginning on Feb. 23** and running through March and into April, that we're calling, "Walking the Jesus Way." This series will make use of an ancient document that goes back to the late first century or the early second, a writing called "The Didache," which means "The Teaching [of the Apostles]." It may well be as old as some of the later books of the New Testament itself, and it gives a glimpse not only of the early church's life and witness but also offers a pattern for our own lives walking in the Jesus way. This Lent, as we focus especially on rededicating and recentering our lives on the way of Jesus, this series will be a great chance both to learn some ancient church history and to connect to present-day life application. We hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall from 9:00-9:50am for this series starting February 23 and leading up to Holy Week in April, as together we *walk the Jesus way!*

Join Us for Conversation and More!

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 21st, 1-3 p.m.** 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!

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 contact 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. Please join us for sampling and judging! Sign up at the kiosk! All are welcome to taste and vote for our C of C Chili Cook-Off winner.

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will begin March 4th @ 8:30 am. We will be doing a Kristi McLelland study "The Gospel on the Ground"- Christ has ascended- now what? We will learn how the remaining disciples chose a new member to replace Judas and then became organized to begin spreading the Gospel without Christ present. This is a 7-week study, and you will need to order the study guide before class. Please sign up at the kiosk. If you have any questions, please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. Bring a friend!!

Thank you to our talented band members, Jill Kohntopp, Cello, Mark Winkelman, Guitar, and Eric Dickey, Piano for sharing your gifts with us today at our 10:00 a.m. service!

Fellowship Adult Dinners for 8, March 15th: Please join us for a fun night of dinners for 8. These dinners are a great way to meet people or possibly get to know more about your fellow church members. You think you know people then you find out the person you've been sitting next to at church every week works in the Empire State building! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know if you would like to host. The committee will let you know which home you're going to, and the hosts will call you with the time and menu and ask you what you would like to bring.

This Week

LWR Quilt ministry
Tuesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.
Book Club
Tuesday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.
Choir Practice
Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
Thursday, February 20, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.
VM Conversations & More
Friday, February 21, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Chili Cookoff
Sunday, February 23 after the 10:00 service
Confirmation Class @ CoC
Sunday, February 23, 12:30 p.m.