

# THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 30th, 2022



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
 Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Prayer:** Almighty God, because You know that we are set among so many and great dangers that by reason of the weakness of our fallen nature we cannot always stand upright, grant us Your strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Message:** Psalm 71:1: [https://youtu.be/\\_PhC8Vf6aPQ](https://youtu.be/_PhC8Vf6aPQ)

**Organist:** Louise Gondosch  
**Readers:** 9 a.m.—Paul Wachs; 11 a.m.—Paul Wachs

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: Luke 12: 22-33                      Wed.: Jer. 5: 20-24                      Friday: Rom. 7: 14-25a  
 Tuesday: Jer. 8: 4-7                          Thurs: Acts 28: 1-6                      Saturday: Hos. 2: 20-23

**INTERESTED** in memorizing scripture? Join us as together we focus on and memorize one verse from the Psalm of the week.

**Today's Verse:** Psalm 71:1 *"In You O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame."*

**WORSHIP NOTE:**

- A recording of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: [christlutheransc.ca](http://christlutheransc.ca).
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland ([chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca)) or Pastor Todd ([pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

**BAPTISM:** We are pleased to welcome into God’s family today by Holy Baptism during our 9 a.m. service, **Elisabeth June Hodge**, daughter of Rebekah Fitzgerald Hodge & Justin Michael Robert Hodge. Sponsors and grandparents are Richard & Kim Fitzgerald. May God bless Elisabeth with a lifetime of rich blessings and protection.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kim Zacharuk on the early arrival of a baby girl, **Lilyan Elsie Mae** born January 24<sup>th</sup>, 8 lbs.6 oz. Proud grandma Barb Zacharuk (nee Dueck). We thank and praise God for the safe arrival of this little one and ask that He be with mother & child always and keep them safe.

**BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL AGES:** 10 AM to 10:45 AM in the church basement safely distanced. Materials are all provided. We will be looking at our faith and how we witness, share, care and live as God’s beloved in our communities in our challenging times which also bring many opportunities. Please join us. YOUTH CATECHISM will begin later closer to March 2022.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** in-person this **Tuesday, February 1st at 7 p.m.** If you can't attend please let Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd know. Thank you.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** **Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** At this point we will plan to be on Zoom. Please connect with Louise if you would like to be added to the list.

**BAZAAR FUNDS:** The LWML ladies were very pleased to **disburse the Bazaar Funds** at our January Zoom meeting this past week. From the money that was raised through the Silent Auction, \$405.79 had already been spent in Nov., buying extra items that we needed for the "Warm Feet" kits and now an additional \$485.21 will be donated through Start-Me-Up-Niagara, \$500.21 will also be given to the Haiti Feeding Program

From the rest of the Bazaar Funds we are donating the following:

Concordia Seminary	\$ 500
CLWR	\$1000
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$ 450
Ontario Medical Missions	\$1050
SOUL	\$ 400
Nicaragua	\$ 500
Haiti Feeding Program	\$ 250 <i>(in addition to the amount above for a total of \$750.21)</i>
LAMP	\$ 150
Refugee Fund	\$ 500

**THANK YOU AGAIN TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR BAZAAR IN ANY WAY, SO THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE MONEY TO DONATE TO ALL THESE MISSIONS. We are blessed to be able to serve our Lord in this way.**

***May Jesus' light shine on you and renew your Spirit in 2022!***

**LWMLC/MARY MARTHA SOCIETY** is pleased to invite all the women of the congregation to any or all of the following evenings. We look forward to the time when health and safety protocols will not be necessary, however, until that time, any public health Covid protocols will be in place for all of our meetings. The following is our program (subject to changes) until June:

Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup> :	7 pm: Bible Study with Pastor Hoeffs
March 15 <sup>th</sup> :	7 pm: Speaker
April 19 <sup>th</sup> :	7 pm: Quilt Tying/Stamp Trimming
May 17 <sup>th</sup> :	7 pm: Bible Study
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> :	5:30 pm: End of season Social and Dinner

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Is. 40:31

**\*\*\*\*To confirm your interest to attend, please call Lorraine or Carole (or email)**

**LWML-Canada, Ontario District, Niagara Zone**, is hosting our District Convention in St. Catharines at Grace Lutheran Church (accommodation at Niagara College) on June 9 to 11th, 2022. More details will follow. If at all possible, please plan to attend. It is a wonderful time to get to know and renew friendships with our sisters in Christ from around the province! It is a time to focus on

**"Joy, Patience, Prayer"** which is the theme of the Convention. (Romans 12:12)

*Our Seminary Student Eduardo Farias and his wife Daniella will be our wonderful entertainment for Friday evening!*

**LUTHERAN CHURCH - CANADA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:**

Lutheran Young people from across Canada will be gathering together this **July 15-19, 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba**. The theme for the gathering is "**IN NOT OF**" from Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ." Information packages are available from Louise. Save the date, check out the website at <http://www.lccnyg.ca>, start following the Facebook and Instagram pages and check out this fun announcement from Pastor Glenn Worcester <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68gXVYofMY>

**INTRODUCING RIGHT-NOW MEDIA'S first live-action kids' show, *The Creators!*** This light-hearted series tells the story of a group of friends on a mission to create movies with meaning. This original, six-episode kids' show encourages viewers to work together, dream big, and honour God. **A new episode releases every Tuesday so add this series to your My Saved list and check back each week!**

**EXTRA HANDS & BODIES NEEDED:** With COVID-19 still a concern, and now the Omicron virus, we will continually need extra people assisting in our services. With offering both 9 am and 11 am services, we are finding ourselves short staffed of volunteers. Particularly for the late service, we need your help in the following areas:

- 1) Greeting of worshippers at entrance and Covid Protocol [highlighting names on attendance sheet and sanitizing]
- 2) Preparation of our PowerPoint worship services [editing the Google Doc Slides, can be done at home]
- 3) Operation of the PowerPoint during church services [training with written instruction will be provided]
- 4) Taking a turn preparing the Altar for Communion and seasonal colour cloth changes [Altar Guild]
- 5) Ushering people to pew seats and directing people to line up for communion
- 6) Lighting and extinguishing of altar candles
- 7) Recording services using newly installed equipment [training with written instructions will be provided]

We pray that you consider helping. We need participation from all ages. Should you wish more information about what is involved, please speak to Judy Slingerland, Tom Kuhl or Pastor Todd.

**Last Sunday Attendance: Jan. 23rd, 2022 Attn: 9 A.M. – 35 ; 11 A.M. – 35 Total: 70**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (-)</u>
Current:			1,455.00	10,747.84	
LCC Missions			93.00	703.50	
Property Improvement:			12.00	146.50	

**FLOWERS** have been placed on the altar this morning to the Glory of God by Lynn Jerchel in loving memory of her Dad, Paul Lipischak.

**2022 DONATION ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in your mailbox. If you don't have a mailbox, please check the table at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have not been issued envelopes and would like some, or, you would like to be assigned a mailbox, please contact Karen at: [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca) or the office at 905-685-8294.

**URGENTLY NEEDED:** **NEW or GENTLEY USED** men's and women's WINTER coats, boots (*must be clean and seasonal, not Spring/Fall*) and greatly needed is new underwear (*new only*) for the homeless in our area. Items will be distributed by Niagara Mobile Closet, free of charge. Jill Munoz and Judy Mason will collect them from our church and bring to the Mobile closet.

**VALENTINE'S DAY:** The **"Valentine's Heart Fundraiser"** has been slightly changed. As we are not allowed to be upstairs nor post anything on the walls there will be a poster downstairs that a heart sticker can be put on for those who want to support this worthy cause. *(Please use Covid-19 protocol)*. You do not have to give a toonie, you can give less or more as ANY DONATION IS WELCOME! Judy Mason will be selling them this Sunday so please buy your heart or several hearts to support **"Out of the Cold" & "Silver Spire Church Soap Program" for the homeless.**



**SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC:** It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

**1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS:** Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at: [http://christlutheransc.ca/?page\\_id=96](http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96) and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation,  
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3, Attn: Darryl Holland

**2. BY MAIL:** cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church  
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

**3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA:** Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ). This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND PRAYER  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 30, 2022 + 9 AM Contemporary Service

BAPTISMAL SONG: "Baptized in Water" "Praise & Thanksgiving" tune

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:  
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now His praises we sing

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:  
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now His praises we sing.

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:  
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now His praises we sing.

Words: Michael Saward (1932); © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/b/b001.html>

+ Baptism of Elisabeth June Hodge +  
Parents: Rebekah Fitzgerald Hodge & Justin Michael Robert Hodge  
Sponsors: Richard & Kim Fitzgerald

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM  
The Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Resources

SCRIPTURAL COMMAND:

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep everything I have entrusted to you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Through baptism God graciously forgives us our sins and unites us with our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we share in His death and resurrection.

GOSPEL ADDRESS

As people brought children to Jesus that He might touch them, the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this He was extremely angry. He said: Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; unless you receive the Kingdom of God like a little child you shall never enter it.

PRESENTATION:

Who brings this child for holy baptism? **I/we do.**

How is this child named? (Name is spoken)

ADMONITION:

Since you as parents and sponsors have brought (Name) to be baptized, you are responsible for his/her upbringing in the Lutheran Church. Remember him/her in your prayers. Bring him/her to the services in God's House and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Remind him/her of her baptism, set him/her a good example, and provide for his/her instruction in the faith that he/she may join you and all believers around the Lord's Table to feast on Jesus' Body and Blood. Do you intend to joyfully do this?

**Yes, I/we do.**

**MARKING OF THE CROSS:**

(Name), receive the sign of the holy cross †, upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Let us ask the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ on (Name) and pray together the prayer He has taught us:

**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.**

**PUBLIC CONFESSION OF THE FAITH:**

I ask you now to publicly speak your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**Yes, I do renounce them.**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

**Yes, I believe 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 sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**Yes, 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.**

**BAPTISM:**

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father † and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit †. Amen. May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth by water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His Spirit, so that you receive eternal life. **Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF CANDLE:**

Receive this burning light. Live always by the Light of Christ and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end.

Let your light so shine before others, that they see your good works and glorify Your Father Who is in Heaven.

**PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, we join with (Name's) parents in thanking you for giving them this child and for adopting him/her as Your own child in holy baptism. Strengthen him/her faith by Your Holy Spirit, so that his/her sinful self may die each day and he/she may rise to new life with Christ forever. As You have written his/her name in the book of life and have made him/her a member of the body of Your Son, guide him/her, so that, with all Your saints, he/she may one day abide in Your Heavenly Home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF BAPTIZED:

Through Baptism, God has added this new brother/sister a member of the Priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and show forth His creative and redeeming Word to all the world:

**We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same Heavenly Father, and workers with us in His Kingdom.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

SCRIPTURE SONG: **"Come and Praise The Lord Our King"** [Michael Rowed tune]  
**Come and praise the Lord our King, Alleluia—**  
**Raise your voice, in worship sing, Alleluia!**

**He will cleanse us from our sin, Alleluia—**  
**As we live by faith in Him, Alleluia!**

**We will live with Him one day, Alleluia—**  
**And forever with Him stay, Alleluia!**  
*Author unknown; traditional folk melody*

## PSALM 71:

"New Living Translation"

O Lord, I have come to you for protection;

**don't let me be disgraced.**

Save me and rescue me,

**for you do what is right.**

Turn your ear to listen to me,

**and set me free.**

Be my rock of safety

**where I can always hide.**

Give the order to save me,

**for you are my rock and my fortress.**

My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked,

**from the clutches of cruel oppressors.**

O Lord, you alone are my hope.

**I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood.**

Yes, you have been with me from birth;

**from my mother's womb you have cared for me.**

No wonder I am always praising you! My life is an example to many

**because you have been my strength and protection.**

That is why I can never stop praising you; **I declare your glory all day long.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: In all our doubts, dangers, and confusion, teach us, Gracious Father, what we ought to say and do. Give to us, who can do nothing good without You, the power to speak the Word of truth and courage to live out Your will in our lives. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## GOD'S WORD

### Old Testament: *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.' Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### CHOIR ANTHEM:

#### *"The Gift Of Love"*

Though I may speak---- with bravest fire  
And have the gift---- to all inspire  
And have not love,---- my words are vain  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give---- all I possess  
And striving so, my love profess  
But not be given by love within  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come Spirit come,----our hearts control  
Our spirits long---- to be made whole  
Let inward love----- guide every deed  
By this we worship and are freed  
A----men (A----men) A-----men.

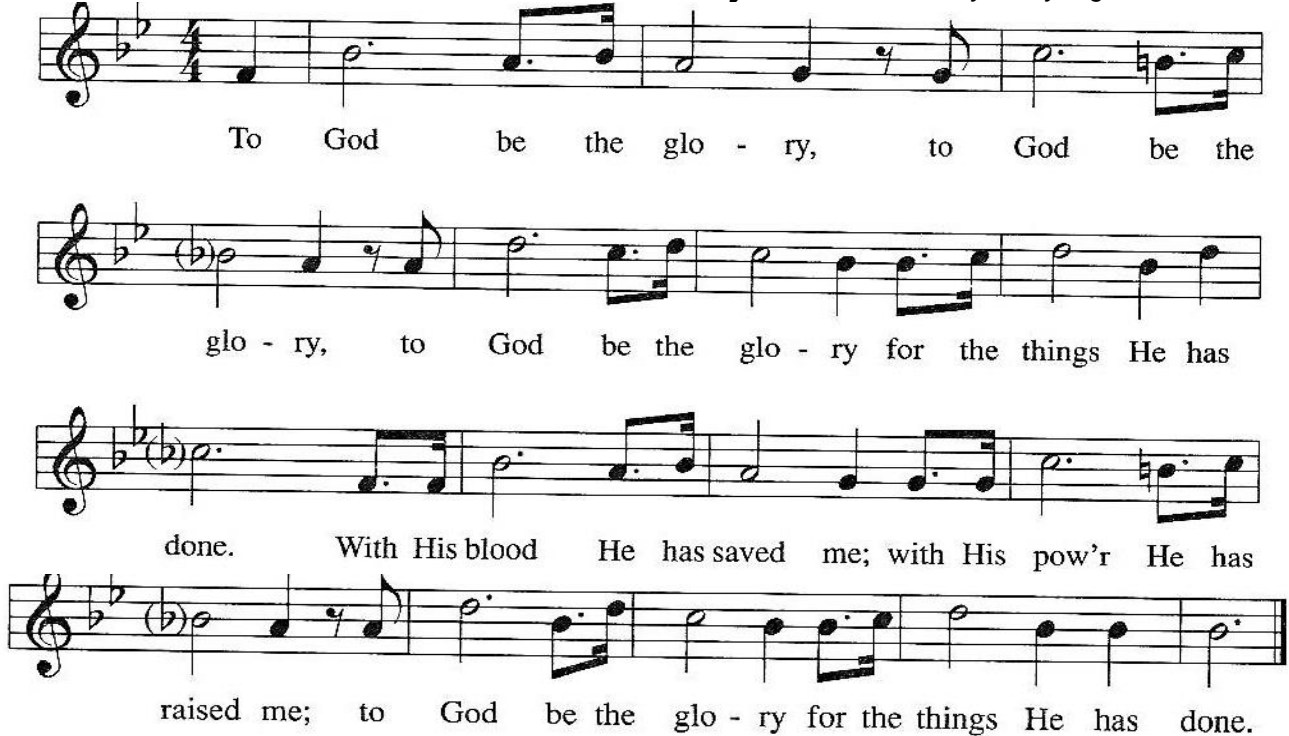
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### The Epistle: *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

[St. Paul writes:] If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL SONG:

**"To God Be The Glory"**[www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)AGPS


To God be the glo - ry, to God be the

glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry for the things He has

done. With His blood He has saved me; with His pow'r He has

raised me; to God be the glo - ry for the things He has done.

**The Holy Gospel:** *St. Luke 4: 21-30*The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter:**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." ' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

SONG RESPONSE TO THE WORD: *“Who You Say Am I”*

**Verse 1:** Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

**Chorus 1:** Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

**Verse 2:** Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

**Chorus 2:** In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am

**Bridge:** I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

**I am who You say I am**

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MESSAGE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith -

**praying in the Holy Spirit.**

*(Jude 20)*

Keep yourselves in the love of God,

**waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, that leads to eternal life.**

*(Jude 21)*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

**The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!**

*(2 Cor. 5:17)*

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another:

*(Brief silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**Most Gracious Father, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and deeds. We have committed sins against our neighbour and against You, O Father. Have mercy upon us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins. Those sins which are known to us, and those which are unknown. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that by faith we may be sorry for our sins, repent of them and serve You in newness of life to the honour and glory of Your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

**And also with you.**

PRAISE RESPONSE:

**“Come and Praise”**

*[Michael Rowed tune]*

**Christ grew up in Bethlehem, Alleluia—  
Son of God and Son of man, Alleluia!**

**Jesus died on Calvary, Alleluia—  
Rose again triumphantly, Alleluia!**

**THE PRAYERS:**

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we give you thanks with all our heart for your holy gospel which you have given us, and through which we have come to know your Fatherly heart. For the sake of your boundless mercy, graciously preserve the blessed light of your word for us. Lead and guide our hearts that we never depart from your word, but always walk in its light and so finally be saved. *Hear us O God—*

**Your mercy is great.**

Remember your church. Deliver her from all evil and perfect her in your love. Strengthen and protect her by your Word and sacraments. Grow your church, so that your gospel may be preached to all nations, and gather the faithful from throughout the world into the kingdom which you have prepared. *Hear us O God—*

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Father, you blessed the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. We pray that you would graciously provide us with favourable weather here and around the world, so that we may gather in the fruits of the earth and proclaim your goodness with thanksgiving.

*Hear us O God—*

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal ruler of all, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Help our leaders contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare of our people, and serve you faithfully in our generation to the honour of your holy name. *Hear us O God—*

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, since you minister to all who are afflicted, look with compassion on those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom – especially we lift up in prayer [names added here:]. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy, remove the fears that attack them, strengthen them in the recovery of their self-possession and health, and give skill, patience, and understanding love to those who provide care for them.

*Hear us O God—*

**Your mercy is great.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, you dwell in unapproachable light, but you have graciously given us access to your love and mercy through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear the prayers we offer in his name, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**BLESSING & BENEDICTION:**

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen**

## SENDING HYMN:

*"I Love To Tell The Story"*

I love to tell the story  
Of unseen things above  
Of Jesus and His glory  
Of Jesus and His love  
I love to tell the story  
Because I know 'tis true  
It satisfies my longings  
As nothing else can do;

I love to tell the story  
For those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting  
To hear it like the rest  
And when in scenes of glory  
I sing the new new song  
'Twill be the old old story  
That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story  
'Twill be my theme in glory  
To tell the old old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

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## MATINS SERVICE [LSB ADAPTED]

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

January 30, 2022 + 11 AM Traditional Service

## OPENING HYMN:

*"I Love To Tell The Story" Verses 1 & 3*

I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory,  
of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true,  
It satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
Seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest;  
And when in scenes of glory  
I sing the new, new song,  
'Twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

**Refrain:**

I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

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SPOKEN MATINS RESPONSES:

O Lord, open my lips!

**And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**Make haste to help me O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son + and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise to You, O Christ;

**King Who comes to save us.**

Blessed be God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Oh come, let us worship Him.**

**PRAISE PSALM VENITE**

COME, LET US SING

*Psalm 95: 1-6*

© *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal 1996*

**O come, and sing unto the Lord, come blend your voice toward Him Who saves.  
with thankful hearts we enter now, to offer songs of glorious praise.**

**Our saving Lord is a great God a pow'rful King above all gods.  
His steady hands embraces earth; The mountain peaks display His worth.**

**The sea and land divinely placed, our Maker, bow before His face,  
His pasture nourishes all sheep, He'll shepherd, guard and safely keep.**

**All praise and glory be to You, the Father, Son and Spirit, Who, Protects and shelters us from fear, His  
holy name this day revere.**

*(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: "All Praise To Thee!" LSB # 883)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O Lord, hear my prayer;

**And let me cry come before You:**

We pray: In all our doubts, dangers, and confusion, teach us, Gracious Father, what we ought to say and do. Give to us, who can do nothing good without You, the power to speak the Word of truth and courage to live out Your will in our lives. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PSALM 71:1-9

"New Living Translation"

O Lord, I have come to you for protection;

**don't let me be disgraced.**

Save me and rescue me,

**for you do what is right.**

Turn your ear to listen to me,

**and set me free.**

Be my rock of safety

**where I can always hide.**

Give the order to save me,

**for you are my rock and my fortress.**

My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked,

**from the clutches of cruel oppressors.**

O Lord, you alone are my hope.

**I've trusted you, O Lord, from childhood.**

Yes, you have been with me from birth;

**from my mother's womb you have cared for me.**

No wonder I am always praising you! My life is an example to many,

**because you have been my strength and protection.**

That is why I can never stop praising you;

**I declare your glory all day long.**

### GOD'S WORD

**Old Testament:**     *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the LORD said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.' Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM:

*"The Gift Of Love"*

Though I may speak---- with bravest fire  
And have the gift---- to all inspire  
And have not love,---- my words are vain  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give---- all I possess  
And striving so, my love profess  
But not be given by love within  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come Spirit come,----our hearts control  
Our spirits long---- to be made whole  
Let inward love----- guide every deed  
By this we worship and are freed  
A----men (A----men) A-----men.

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**The Epistle:**     *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

[St. Paul writes:] If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been

fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

*"To Your Temple"*

**To Your Temple I draw near, Lord I love to worship here;  
Here are Sacrament and Word -- Here believers meet their Lord.**

*James Montgomery, 1812, public domain*

**The Holy Gospel:** *St. Luke 4: 21-30*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

SPOKEN RESPONSORY:

Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the Heavens.

**Lord I love the habitation of Your house  
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**Lord I love the habitation of Your house  
and the place where Your glory dwells.**

Glory to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;

**Lord I love the habitation of Your house  
and the place where Your glory dwells.**



## OFFICE HYMN: "Jesus Has Come! And Brings Pleasure"

LSB # 533

Je-sus has come and brings pleas-ure e - ter-nal, Al-pha, O - me - ga, be - gin - ning and  
Je-sus has come! Now see bonds rent a - sun-der! Fet-ters of death now dis-solve, dis - ap -  
Je-sus has come as the might-y Re - deem-er. See now the threat-en-ing strong one dis -  
Je-sus has come as the King of all glo-ry! Heav-en and earth, O, de - clare his great  
end; God-head, hu - man - i - ty, un - ion su - per - nal, O great Re -  
pear. See him burst through with a voice as of thun-der! He sets us  
armed! Je - sus breaks down all the walls of death's for-tress, Brings forth the  
pow'r, Cap - tur - ing hearts with the heav - en - ly sto - ry; Wel - come him  
deem - er, you come as our friend! Heav-en and earth, now pro - claim this great  
free from our guilt and our fear. Lifts us from shame to the place of his  
pri - s'ners tri - um-phiant, un - harmed. Sa - tan, you wick - ed one, own now your  
now in this fast - fleet - ing hour! Pon - der His love! Take the crown he has  
won - der: Je - sus has come and brings pleas - ure e - ter - nal!  
hon - or. Je - sus has come! Hear the roll of God's thun - der!  
mas - ter. Je - sus has come! He, the Might - y Re - deem - er.  
for you! Je - sus has come! He, the King of all glo - ry!

*J Allendorf, O Rupprecht; © 1982 Concordia Publishing House Public Domain*

## MESSAGE

## MAGNIFICAT MATINS CANTICLE: "My Soul Rejoices"

**My soul rejoices, my spirit voices—  
singing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Saviour, has shown me favour—  
singing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing, join in confessing  
God, who is solely, mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely, shall rest securely  
on all who fear Him, love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

**His arm now baring, His strength  
declaring—  
singing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters, their rule He  
shatters—  
singing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted; the meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry; empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token, all that was spoken  
to Abraham's offspring --God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

*Words: Stephen Starke, 1955; © 1991 Hymnal Supplement 98 [www.trinityslayton.net/pastors\\_notes/](http://www.trinityslayton.net/pastors_notes/)*

## THE PRAYERS

SPOKEN KYRIE:

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, our heavenly Father, we give you thanks with all our heart for your holy gospel which you have given us, and through which we have come to know your Fatherly heart. For the sake of your boundless mercy, graciously preserve the blessed light of your word for us. Lead and guide our hearts that we never depart from your word, but always walk in its light and so finally be saved. *Hear us O God –*

**Your mercy is great.**

Remember your church. Deliver her from all evil and perfect her in your love. Strengthen and protect her by your Word and sacraments. Grow your church, so that your gospel may be preached to all nations, and gather the faithful from throughout the world into the kingdom which you have prepared. *Hear us O God –*

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Father, you blessed the earth to make it fruitful, bringing forth in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. We pray that you would graciously provide us with favourable weather here and around the world, so that we may gather in the fruits of the earth and proclaim your goodness with thanksgiving.

*Hear us O God –*

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal ruler of all, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Help our leaders contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare of our people, and serve you faithfully in our generation to the honour of your holy name. *Hear us O God –*

**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, since you minister to all who are afflicted, look with compassion on those who through addiction have lost their health and freedom – especially we lift up in prayer [names added here:]. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy, remove the fears that attack them, strengthen them in the recovery of their self-possession and health, and give skill, patience, and understanding love to those who provide care for them. *Hear us O God –*

**Your mercy is great.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, you dwell in unapproachable light, but you have graciously given us access to your love and mercy through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear the prayers we offer in his name, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.**

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.**

**BLESSING & BENEDICTION:**

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:**

*“The Spirit Sends Us Forth”*

*[“Hark the glad sound” tune]*

**The Spirit sends us forth to serve;  
we go in Je-sus' name  
to bring glad tid-ings to the poor,  
God's fa-vour to pro-claim.**

**We go to com-fort those who mourn  
and set the burd-ened free;  
where hope is dim, to share a dream  
and help the blind to see.**

**We go to be the hands of Christ,  
to scatter joy like seed.  
and, all our days, to cherish life,  
to do the loving deed.**

**Then let us go to serve in peace,  
the gospel to proclaim  
God's Spirit has empowered us;  
we go in Jesus' name.**

*The Sisters of St. Benedict --Public Domain      A **OneLicense license** is required to legally project/copy this song. For more information or to purchase a license, contact [www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net)      Delores Dufner, OSB*

**REV. TODD HOEFFS****Epiphany 4****Scripture – Luke 4:21-30****“Ya Can’t Please Ev’ryone, So Ya Gotta Please Yourself”****January 30, 2022**

Going back home. This idea is as interesting as it is stressful. It’s never the same, for better or worse. And it shouldn’t be – things don’t ever stop changing. I regretted the times I went back home over the years. You expect family to welcome with open arms And show how they’re thrilled to see you and your growing family. And then the reality that they are not so thrilled at all. It made for very uncomfortable times where there was little rest or reconnecting. I have to say, the 1<sup>st</sup> time I went back home to preach in my home church [in EA NY] I received a warm welcome.

Even MY own pastor came and sat in the pew to listen. That was a good experience. But old home nostalgia is just that, nostalgia. Sentimentality. You can never go back and see it the same way. You’d think someone like JESUS could return to His hometown and be blown over with the towns’ joy, excitement and happiness. “All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words” But then his time concludes with, “...all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town...”? Why? Because He told them all those in need of healing, those who are poor, Those who are blind, those who are held in bondage All of them – Are healed and made rich and given sight and released! Forgiven – set free – everyone – Today. Today Jesus says, THIS IS FULFILLED IN YOUR HEARING. That’s what causes upheaval in the hometown synagogue. Jesus makes it clear that He isn’t there to offer these familiar faces a special place of privilege in the Kingdom of God. Instead, it’s unlikely they even want what He freely gives. Jesus’ gentle condemnation of Israel’s past suggests his ministry will be marked by blessings for outsiders and judgement for insiders. After all, neither Elijah nor Elisha were known for hometown healing.

The widow from Zarephath Elijah healed was not Jewish. Prophet Elisha healed the leader of an enemy army. Namaan. A Syrian general! Israel repeatedly cried out for God to pour judgement upon other nations; Jesus would rather pour out His grace on all people – And that not just Israel But everyone in the entire world is supposed to benefit from God’s mercy. God was always rescuing the wrong people, the outsiders, and Jesus intended to completely fulfill this by bringing all outsiders inside. Jesus knows this town. He grew up in its cultural climate. People always marvelled over what He could do Considering His parents’ Joseph and Mary’s relationship....a “VIRGIN” birth, really? Jesus could see how Samaritans passing through their towns got rejected, and sense the hatred toward tax-collectors and Roman Rule. Jesus was one of them and yet not one of them at all. He is God born as man. His Gospel, His release to all who are burdened and chained to sin Paints Him with a negative brush. Jesus’ truth, his welcome, his embrace, his compassion, his humility is there for anyone who receives Him and His Way. He goes to great pains to remind them that God’s power is often focused on those on the outlying fringe of our little worlds. Sure, there were people in need right there in His own community. Yet, he reminds them, God has always looked out for those in need beyond the community of faith, beyond the boundaries of our towns, our countries. He uses us to reach them – Even against our will -- Since its God’s power, not ours. God Himself is not ours to own. Rather, we are his. He holds us together. It’s too much for those folks to hear. Jesus must go. Run him out of town ---off the edge of a cliff--just as the people had done with the prophets of old-- when they said the truth no one wished to hear. And you should see the bottom of those town cliffs in Israel. Often, these served as garbage dumps. With fires and the ashes that are always burning to dispose of it. Him and His Word are as good as garbage to be burned. Jesus just passes through the crowds unharmed. All Jesus has to do is favor them over everyone else. That’s all any of us want. Special treatment for putting up with being a believer in our times. Polar opposite

ideals mark our times quite vividly. Pandemic life with so much information and restriction has created so much fear and anger and resentment and isolation.

It's hard to focus, listen or understand. It's all about he's right, you're wrong. Very little binds people together. It's lonely and frustrating. God knows this. He doesn't sympathize, He doesn't simply empathize. HE acts. Jesus is His huge active step out of glory and down into the arena of human mess. Jesus' message of truth challenges all hearers Because it disrupts preconceived hopes and assumptions. We do not respond *by pushing* Jesus off of a cliff, We choose to ignore it or not believe it or twist its meaning. All believers, in truth, all people, Can benefit from a greater self-awareness, deeper personal reflection of their life and spiritual well-being, with more openness to God's sometimes inconvenient work in daily living. Its means thinking that God gives Jesus Christ to the world Not just for my good, but for the good of all people. The time is now for the church to wrestle with this And re-evaluate mission and purpose. If Jesus fulfills His Scripture in my hearing, It is fulfilled for my neighbour, too. If Jesus died for me, He died for all. Jesus avoided the push off the cliff Because He dove head first into our sinful abyss When He LAID DOWN His Body on the cross To pay for sin's evil hold on humanity. Nails and thorns and wood and a spear has completely Released all, healed all, soothed all, forgiven all. Jesus did this for you. Jesus did this for everyone out there too. When we believe this, when the Holy Spirit inspires this in our hearts and minds, We go about doing the work Jesus does. We are partners with Him, walking by faith, going all the way back to the wilderness, the Exodus, and the Ten Commandments -- that all of us are anointed by God washed in Baptism sealed with the Spirit, with grace and forgiveness poured out on us--for this is how we can live as Jesus' own special community of hope-- As Paul has written so well, that in this community, the greatest is love. [1 Cor. 13], SO our mission and purpose remains Jesus' message --binding up the broken-hearted; Giving hope to those without vision. Lightening the load of the burdened. Forgiving freely and openly as the Father has so forgiven us so freely in Christ.

For our God doesn't only love Israel, or outsiders, or our nation, or our enemies, Or the Christian tradition, the Church, our denomination, our parish, or whatever boundaries we wish to set.

He loves all. No one is outside of His generous grace. God is not ours. Jesus is not ours.

We are his. He has called us all by name.

We live and work and witness where and when He leads us.

In faith we let go of all notions that Jesus, the hometown kid, is ours, and begin to believe and live what it means that "we are his."

As His, we also belong, united with, each other, in here and out there.

This is how we will live as a community of Love, a people of faith and hope-- a people not known by our home town, but a people known by our Heavenly Kingdom.

Amen.