

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28th, 2024



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
 Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
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Bulletin by email: chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

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.

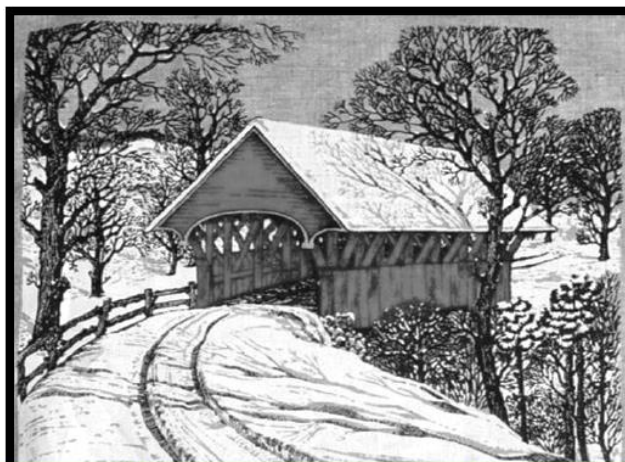
DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

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

Musicians: Mayumi Munoz
Reader: Paul Wachs
Greeters: James Hyatt

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. – Sunday School, Youth Chat, Coffee Hour
 10:00 a.m. – Worship with Communion
 Monday: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study
 Tuesday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments
 Thursday: 10:00-11:30 a.m. – SOUL – resumes
 Next Sunday: Light Lunch following Service, followed by Voter's Meeting



4	11	18	25
5 th Epiphany Morning Praise	Transfig. of Jesus Creative Communion	1 st Lent Word & Prayer service The Band	2 nd Lent Holy Communion LSB Setting I
February 2024			

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING for God's wonderful gift of two new children.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin, Vanessa and Trevor Koch on the birth of their daughter and sister, **Ciara Jolene**, who was born on January 14th. A Granddaughter for Michael & Sharon Koch. We also give thanks for the safe arrival of **Evelyn Meyer** on January 23. Daughter of Adam & Lynn A Granddaughter for Kurt & Gloria Meyer. Everyone is doing well.

YOU ARE INVITED!! Every Sunday!!

**Hope to see you downstairs
for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!**

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

(during Sunday School & CHAT)

**Anyone willing to help serve or bring
treats, please contact:**

Judy Mason 905-641-7546



SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today we learn that while Jesus and His mother are guests at a wedding in Cana. Mary asks Him to assist the wedding hosts, who have run out of wine. In Jesus' first recorded miracle, He changes a large volume of plain water into wine that is superior to what has already been served. Those who witnessed this miracle marvel at what He has done. What wonders does God still work through His people today?

Our Bible Verse: ***“Jesus...manifested His glory”.*** John 2:11

CONFIRMAND & YOUTH CHAT: Second & fourth Sundays with youth leader Dan Figueroa. We will meet in the youth room during S. School from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m.

VOTERS MEETING: Our next congregational voters meeting will be **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, immediately following Worship Service. Main item for discussion/approval will be the 2024 budget. The Fellowship Committee will serve a **light lunch**, after the service, prior to the meeting. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to sign if you will be attending. Thank you!!

Murder Mystery Supper is SOLD OUT! Thank you to all who responded and bought tickets. Payment can be made that night.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!!!! Calling all youth, confirmands & friends: **February 11th** we are planning a fun afternoon of competition, problem-solving and an all-around unique experience at **“ACTIVATE.”**

Take a look at this video to see what it's all about!

<https://youtu.be/LV4hfG5eGXU?si=Q6vjF8rRESdZmC1w>

Cost is just \$25/ person thanks to the **Parish Ed Committee.**

Simply register by the end of this month by using the link here: <https://bxzq0rfovsd.typeform.com/to/Hf6hRNYU>

Hope you can join us!



YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART THIS LENT! Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of journeying with Jesus to the cross & empty grave. **February 14**, Valentine's Day is the starting date this year. A Holy Communion Service with the imposition of ashes will be offered at **7:00 pm**, with a homily by Pastor Todd on 1 Corinthians 13, ***“What's Love Got To Do, Got To Do With It !?!”***



FAMILY NIGHT

UNO & SUPPER

Singing & Devotions
 Saturday, February 24, 4:00 p.m.

The Parish Ed Committee will provide a meal of TACOS and Drinks
 Please bring a dessert OR munchies to share!!

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10 we hope you will join us!

PLEASE SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada: July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, ON.

The convention theme is based on Psalm 149:1 'Sing to the Lord a new song'

Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma who is a Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will also tell of their cross-cultural ministry with the use of singing and music.

The mites gathered throughout the past three years provided such great blessings to people around the world, from local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring news of the work that is happening through those missions. Mission Grants for the next triennium will be voted on.

If you would be interested in attending, either in person or online, speak to Lorraine Kaija.

Registration forms will be available in the coming months. You can also check out the LWML web site lutheranwomen.ca

Last Sunday Attendance: Attn: Jan 21, 2024 — 10 a.m. – 97

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current		1,652.00	13,532.41	
LCC Missions		139.00	921.00	
Property Improvement:		64.00	316.50	

SURVEY: CHRISTMAS EVE Service Times. The Worship Committee is investigating optimal times for Christmas Eve services. Our 10 pm service attendance numbers are not what we historically have seen. Please participate in a quick survey at the back of the church February 4, 11 & 18th. Look at the chart on the bulletin board at the back of the church; get 1 sticky dot and place it on the time slot you and your family would prefer to attend Christmas Eve services. One per person. If you have any questions or wish to email your choice, please speak to or email either Judy Slingerland or Kathy Kuhl.

LWML/Mary Martha: We were very pleased at our recent January meeting to disperse money from our very successful 2023 Christmas Bazaar . The following are donations that we have made using those funds:

- \$1500 - S.O.U.L.
- \$1000 – CLTS
- \$1500 - Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- \$500 - Lutheran Bible Translators
- \$1200 – Nicaragua Feeding Program
- \$500 - L.A.M.P.
- \$1000 - Ukraine (through LCC)
- \$3500 - Refugee Assistance
- \$100 - L.A.M.P. Northern VBS Mission
- \$550 - Red Cross Wildfire Relief
- \$300 - Niagara Mobile Closet
- \$200 - Out of the Cold
- 54 “Warm Feet Kits”
- 300 cloth bags for Start Me Up Niagara

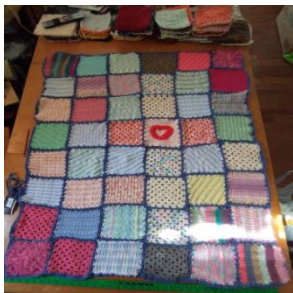
We also collect monthly at our monthly meetings to support:

- Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
- Nicaragua Feeding Program
- Our adopted Seminary Student
- Mites (which are sent to LWML-Canada towards all the wonderful Mission projects voted on at our Conventions.)

We also now plan to start a Bursary Fund, to assist anyone from our congregation who would like to attend a Convention, but needs help financially to do so.

You can see the large number of people and organizations that we are helping through our donations, both in our own community here and in Mission work around the world. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR LWML/Mary Martha Society. We feel very blessed to have our congregation help and contribute in so many ways. May The Lord continue to bless our shared ministry together.

TECHNOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS – The Worship Committee is seeking individuals who would be interested in learning how to operate the recording equipment used for our worship services. Training will be provided. Should you have any questions or require more information please speak to either Tom Kuhl, Theresa Mason or Pastor Todd.



Granny Squares still needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise

God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

TAPESTRY is an **LWML-C Publication** available to anyone. For 2024 it will publish (3) three times a year with the possibility of a digital issue in the summer. The cost for a paper copy is \$18 for the 24/25 subscription year. Deadline for renewal has been moved up to March 15 this year. Please contact Wendy Hyatt for more information or to start or renew your paper subscription. A sample issue is available.

USED STAMPS: Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.

HOLY COMMUNION
LSB DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

The 4th Sunday After Epiphany
January 28, 2024 + 10 AM Worship

OPENING HYMN:

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Epiphany season version

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**The Wisemen brought Christ treasures, Led there by a bright star;
And through their westward journey, We see God's love reach far.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**When Christ declared God's king-dom, In water now made wine;
Through miracle and mercy, He welcomed all to dine.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**Now Christ, the star who guides us, The font from which we live;
And we, like Wisefolk walking: Our lives the gifts we give.**

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

*Text: David R. Weiss, b. 1959 (text, © 2012 David R. Weiss); Tune: African American Spiritual, GO TELL IT (Go Tell It on the Mountain, Lutheran Book of Worship, 70 – public domain) Permission is given to photocopy the words for **Go Tell It – Epiphany** for use in worship. <https://davidrweiss.com/writings/hymn-texts/go-tell-it/>*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

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

Amen.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness;

therefore You are worshipped.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end of the second line.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"Glory To God"

Woodlands tune

1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,
Of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored,
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first three lines of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the next three lines. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end of the fourth line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray: Almighty Father, You know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit by Your Word and Sacraments, so that, with Your divine help, we may be able to overcome the weaknesses that our sin has caused. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM:

"In You We Live"

In You we live, and move, and have our being;
For it is You who gives us life and breath.
You made us all that we may seek and find Your love,
Which is not far from any human heart.
Through You we live (through You) -- With You we live
As we love You, know You, serve and praise You, In You we live.
You made the world and ev'ry thing that's in it.
You do not live n idols made by hands,
But rather, it is we who dwell within Your love:
It is not we who made ourselves, ...but You
Through You we live (through You); With You we live
As we love You, know You, serve and praise You, In You we live.
O Lord, You fixed a day when You shall triumph.
You have appointed Christ to be our judge.
This one You raised from death to show Your pow'r and love,
That we may follow You and live at last.
Through You we live (through You); With You we live
As we love You, know You, serve and praise You, In You we live.
As we love You, know You, serve and praise You, in You, in You we live.

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The Epistle: *1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

[St. Paul writes:] Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the

Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God. *John 20:31*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 1:21-28

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!' 'Be quiet!' said Jesus sternly. 'Come out of him!' The impure spirit shook

the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, 'What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.' News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: *"Praise The One, Who Breaks The Darkness"*



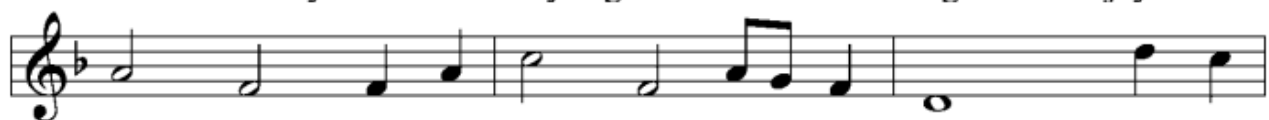
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered*

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, Your servant Moses promised that You would raise up a prophet like him from among Your ancient people, putting Your words into his mouth. We bless Your name that You fulfilled that promise when You sent Your Son with the words of eternal life for us to hear and to treasure. Make all pastors of Your Church faithful in preaching that Word, and give all Your people grace to hear and welcome it with joy. Lord, hear our prayers, **as our cry comes before You –**

Your Son spoke with power and showed His authority to release from the oppression of the devil those whom the enemy had afflicted. Through our Savior's mighty Word,

continue to free those in bondage to the powers of darkness, transferring them into the Kingdom of Your Son, that with us they may marvel at Your gracious love.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our cry comes before You –**

Into Your merciful keeping, we commend all those entrusted with civil authority among us. His Gracious Majesty King Charles, the Prime Minister, Parliament, our Premier and all who hold authority over us. Help them to serve our nation and communities with honour. Remember also all in our armed forces and particularly our chaplains who minister to them in Your name.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our cry comes before You –**

Father, You invite all to call upon You in prayer. Hear the cries of Your children in their time of need: those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, grieving, lonely or frightened [*and especially all we name before You: _____*]. Have mercy on them all and let them take comfort in Your steadfast love that surrounds in their times of distress.

Lord, hear our prayers, **as our cry comes before You –**

Almighty God and Father, since You have given us grace at this time with one faithful voice to make our common concerns to You s nave promised that when two or three are gathered in Your name You will grant their requests, fulfill now, O God, the desires and prayers of Your servants, as may be best for them, giving us in this world knowledge of Your truth, and in the world to come, everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray, Who lives and rules with You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, within our world today. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you – **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts – **we lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God –

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. And so with the church on earth and all the hosts of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name...*

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD:

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre ring of the silver trays.

COMMUNION HYMNS: *"Praise The Lord Rise Up"*

**Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing:
Glory be to God on high!
Christ, Your cross and passion sharing, by this Eucharist declaring
Yours the final victory.**

**Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely, one voice calling,
Ears attentive to Your Word;
By Your Blood new life receiving,
In Your Body, firm believing,
We are Yours, and You the Lord.**

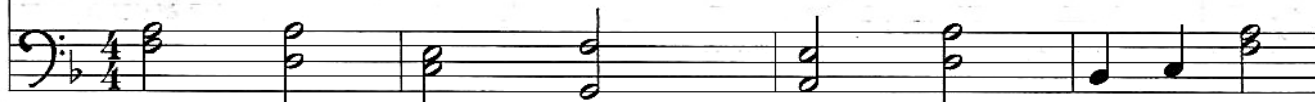
**Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living--
In Your Spirit, strong and free.
Christ-like in Your vast creation, serving all in our vocation,
May we faithful foll'wers be.**

*Words: Nurnberg Gesang-Buch, 1676; trans. Catharine Winkworth 1829-78
[All Depends On Our Possessing tune]*

"All Who Hunger Gather Gladly"



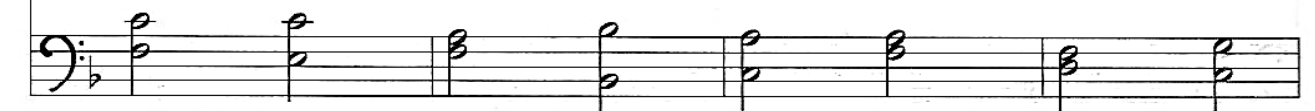
1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.



"We Are One In The Spirit"

**We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored—**

Chorus

**And they'll know we are Christians
By our love-- by our love
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.**

Chorus

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit, Who makes us one.**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 26997 -- Peter Scholtes; © Words: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Music: 1966 F.E.L. Publications. Assigned 1991 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](http://www.ccli.com). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com -- CCLI License # 775293

"Thy Word"

**Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path;
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

**When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me;
Nothing will I fear, as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end—**

Chorus

**I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering;
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.**

Chorus

CCLI Song # 14301; Amy Grant | Michael W. Smith © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Curb Word Music CCLI License # 775293

POST COMMUNION HYMN: *"O Lord Now Let Your Servant"*

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Living Waters"

INTRO

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 84$ C5 Cmaj7 C5 Cmaj7 $\text{♩} C5$ C5/D

C G C/E F Dm7 G C5 Cmaj7 C5 Cmaj7

17 *Last time to Coda*

hope is se - cure, do not fear an - y - more, praise the Lord of liv - ing wat - ers.

ENDING

Dm7 G C5 C G C/E

33 *Coda*

praise the Lord of liv - ing wat - ers. There our hope is se - cure, do not fear an - y -

F Dm7 G C

37

more, praise the Lord of liv - ing wat - ers. _____

REV. TODD HOEFFS

4th EPIPHANY

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Preference and/or passions?

January 28, 2024

Mrs. Maxwell lived down the street from my 1st parish in Edmonton. A long-time member and unable to attend due to mobility issues. I visited her as a shut-in. Every time I entered her little apartment, her small kitchen table had been set with a lace tablecloth, fancy lunch plates

and an array of sandwiches [and once a whiskey and 7-up]. White bread, crusts cut off, thick layers of butter and Cheez Whiz. Or Rye bread, canned salmon and thick miracle whip.

Then a Bundt cake for dessert – with the expectation I'd eat at least ½ of it.

I am a guy who can eat almost anything. But butter and cheez whiz took some fast swallowing and a satisfied grin. She'd cheerfully say to me, "Gee pastor, I don't know if you like these or not, But DOESN'T matter, eat 'em anyway. That's life and she'd laugh passing me more. While the Lord inspired a passion for His ministry, my preference would not have been to eat all that food. However, this became her way of serving me and showing love.

After I led her funeral a few years after this, her son came to me with a note.

Her last grocery shopping list. "Canned salmon for the Pastor's visit" was written at the top!

Imagine the insult if I made a face or a fuss over the lunch!? This is why the church must never be fuelled by PREFERENCES, But Passion – which is our LORD'S PASSION –

His love for you, for me, and every person on this planet. Preferences are human.

We have favourite things. I love the colour green. I love sunny days with plus 40 degree weather. My favourite pie is cherry. I prefer cheese to cheez whiz LOL. Every day you make choices. Which coffee cup to use, which sweater to wear, what to cook for dinner.

People have preferences. That's the point. Preferences are personal, they change and evolve. Preferences are as varied as there are different kinds of people. Sometimes preferences are about human need; most often it's about what we want and keeping to a set way of life. Ready or not, my dad liked to have his dinner ready on the table at 5:15 pm.

Because preferences are so individual, the church can't appeal to preferences. Because then we'd have to appeal to every single person in the building. Apostle Paul is dealing with this very issue in the Corinthian church. Food is of great concern. The church at that time would not only feed people the Bread of Life, But regular meals depending on the need.

We know from the Old Testament; the children of Israel could not eat certain foods and had to prepare them in certain ritual ways. Some of this was to practice proper health and hygiene;

But most importantly, this kept Israel set apart for God's purpose of saving the world.

With the coming of the Saviour, Jesus completes the saving need these other rituals could not meet. Now, all foods are fine to eat. The Greek and Roman Christians in Corinth know this, since they are new to the faith. The Jewish Christians struggle with this. Old habits die hard.

In the common Corinthian market culture, altars honouring gods like Zeus have meat offered to them like burnt offering BBQ. The meat would be divided into 3 portions, one portion burnt in honour of the god, one portion given to the worshipper to take home and eat, and the third portion given to the pagan priest. If the priest didn't want to eat his portion, he could sell it at the temple restaurant or meat market. This meat would be cheaper.

Then, as well as now, people loved a bargain (including Christians). So, can Corinthians eat meat purchased at the temple meat market? What if we're served meat purchased at the temple meat market when we're guests in someone's home? Can a Christian eat at the restaurant at the pagan temple? In answering the "CAN I" question, it's yes, of course. But SHOULD you –that's a different question. Apostle Paul wishes us to be all things to all people for the sake of the Gospel. We tend to get it backwards. We prefer to be all things to all people for the sake of the law or customs or PREFERENCES! We think satisfying our little interests makes us feel better. That if we do the same thing the same way life will be easy. It doesn't work that way. In the course of a day there are no end to little things that we can try and improve. It's a vicious circle of control. Good order and organization is great. But we can't control our lives 100 percent. We need to trust. This is where the Gospel comes in, because nothing grows without God's grace. If nothing grows, life stagnates and can even deteriorate. We really only have trust. God's grace changes us from the inside and lessens our need to make our preferences dominate His Spirit fuels our passion to love and assist other people. Only God's love can fuel the Christian's Passion to live for Him.

Without love, there is no mission nor vision nor purpose. That's why Apostle Paul focuses on whom and how we love verses what we know. The Christian life is crafted by love, not by knowledge; the goal of a Christian's life is not greater knowledge, but greater love.

There's no written exam for entry into the Lord's Kingdom. Access is through Christ by love and faith. Faith trusts, remaining humble while flourishing. Knowledge puffs up.

Paul's Greek word choice here for "puffed up" is where we get the term Physio.

As in Physiotherapy. It means to enlarge naturally, as in a muscle which enlarges, or swells up when used. I'm sure many of you know people who are very strong in academic head learning & Can be very full of themselves, love hearing the sound of their own voice.

Love does not puff up, love builds up. Love is AGAPE, a love that concerns itself not with just the self, but others who have need of love. Agape love serves, helps, cares, shows compassion and lives in the truth. Agape love constructs, supports and encourages.

That kind of love truly fills up our lives. Now, both knowledge and love effect our lives.

Both can make something *grow*. The difference between puffing up and edifying is striking; it is the difference between a *bubble* and a *building*. Some Christians grow, others just swell! Swelling keeps our eyes inward; building keeps our eyes on Jesus. The Corinthian Christians feel free to eat at the pagan temple because They KNOW better. They came in from the Roman culture and have seen the light so to speak. To them, idols and fake gods mean nothing. But for others, meat coming from a false god ritual Means it's been tainted by that false god ritual. Has it? According to St. Paul and Scripture, no. At times, these differences won't matter. It's how we as believers grow in these differences. Like when you see a certain activity being done wrong or unethical and you stop it. That is more than a difference, that involves safety and law and conscience. Being correct in matters of faith IS important.

It is also important caring about all brothers and sister affected by this. We might think today of a person whose family life was destroyed by a drug or alcohol or spending problem or some kind of addicted parent. And then that person sees other church people going to parties drinking heavily. Or spending extravagantly. Paul's church has people stepping out of the world and then going back into it. Jesus says we are to live in the world, but to become one with the world. We can't expect the world to act like the church, Just as we can't expect the church will act like the world. God's Word through the Holy Spirit's enlightening Makes us think long and hard about our own lives and how we view the world.

We test our own faith. And we have to admit we tend to offer hospitality to those we *enjoy* most being with. When any of us act against the best interests of our fellow Christian's faith and life, we're undermining Christ's own interest in their lives. You cannot love Christ if you despise – either by indifference to or active subversion of their growth in grace – those whom *he* loves. The Lord Jesus truly understands. He sympathizes with *our* weaknesses;

This is why He spends time with the lowest and the least. He is showing us over and over that it's not about out being right, Or excusing things away, But holding love and truth as important ways of living as believers in this world. So we pass on this love when we gently correct or guide or stand up to what is wrong To make the people involved protected and cared for.

This is why Jesus has a heart for the man tormented by demons. It tears Jesus up inside to see His creation consumed with Satan's evil. Jesus is Lord of all the living. Only Jesus can rid not only the man of demons, but release Satan's grip on the world. This release happens with nail pierced hands attached to wooden cross beams. Calvary's cross break's the devil's scheme. Dying as a criminal in our place wipes humanity's slate clean And in Jesus, we grow in knowledge as our love grows. Love is powerful. The Gospel changes lives.

The Blood of Jesus makes us all new. Apostle Paul says we must know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The evil demonic world still wishes to hurt us and the church.

Quite a few years of ministry in Alberta had me involved with demonic oppressions.

At times I even could feel their cold, dark icy presence. My shut-in communion kit for celebrating home communions was all that helped. One time, I was going into my briefcase to get it & I started singing "Lamb of God" [LSB setting setting 1 tune]; these icy evil things immediately ran down the hallway even before consecrating. The Body and Blood of Jesus in the bread and wine scared the realm of Satan. And well it should.

It is our way of receiving the Living Lord in a personal, divine way.

God is with us on the altar of our hearts.

That is holy passion.

God's love is present and real to embrace you.

We can still enjoy our personal preferences,

But in the church, we are all things to all people for the Gospel's sake.

Preference giving way to Passion.

What we "think" we know giving way to "Learning to Love."

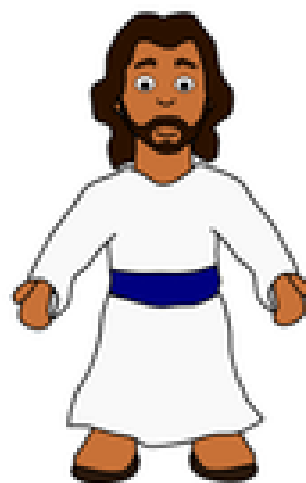
Amen.

Miracles of Jesus: Changing water into wine (John 2:1-11)

D J L R V K F F C W S A C M T
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D W J J I A J E N T O I F T U
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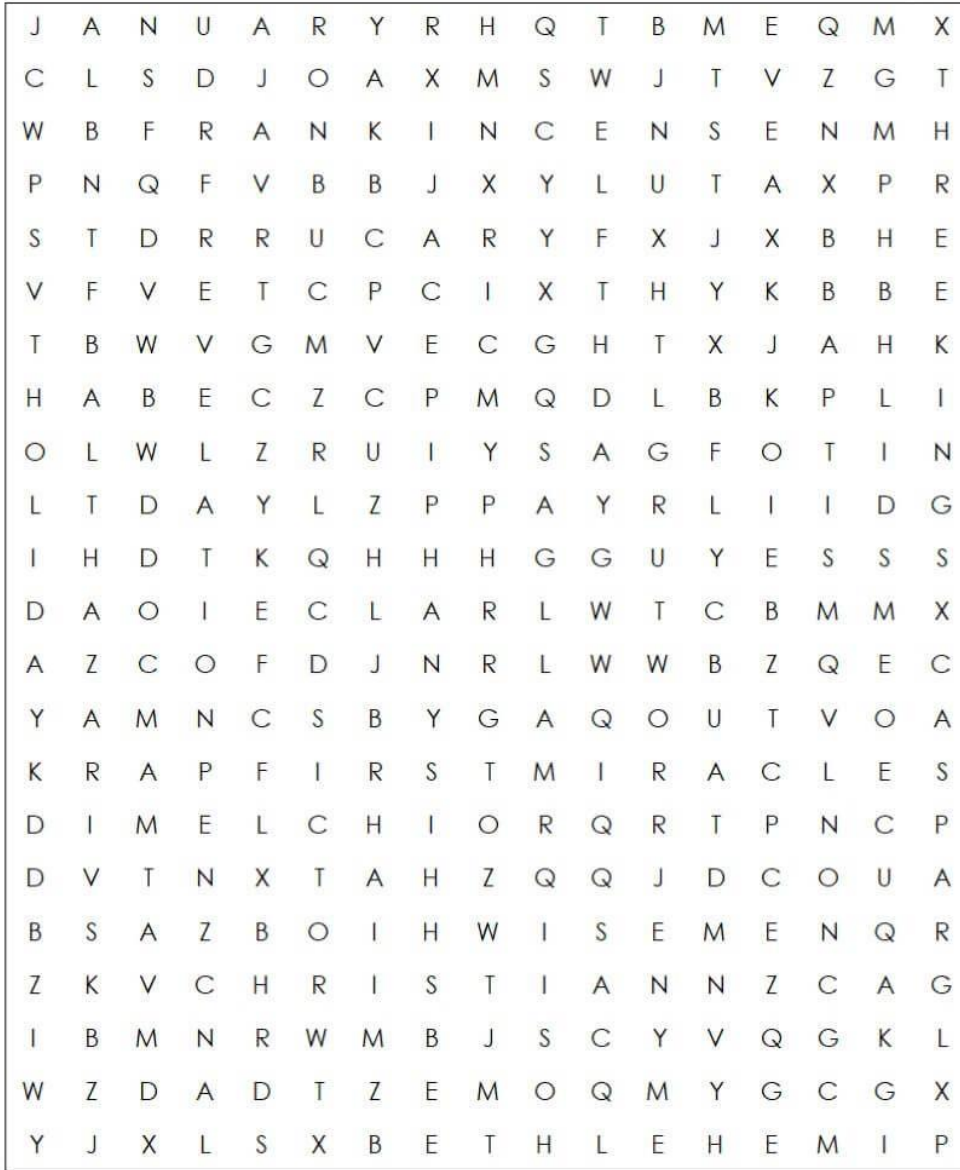
BANQUET
DISCIPLES
INVITED
MARY
SIX
TURNED
WEDDING

CANA
GALILEE
JESUS
MIRACLE
STONE
WATERJARS
WINE
TRANSFORMATION



Name: _____

Epiphany Word Search



FIRST MIRACLE	REVELATION	MELCHIOR
FRANKINCENSE	BALTHAZAR	BAPTISM
WISE MEN	BETHLEHEM	HOLIDAY
THREE KINGS	CHRISTIAN	JANUARY
TWELFTH DAY	EPIPHANY	CASPAR

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