

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

8:30 Service

**Introduction for the Day:** In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

## Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Ann Williams

Temple Talk

Stephen Ministry

*Please stand as you are able.*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

God is light; where there is no darkness at all.

**If we walk in the light as God is the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

The voice of the Lord speaks with authority, commanding evil to depart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

God hears your prayer. Those who repent and truly believe are not overthrown.

**We have seen the Lord's glory; we have heard the Lord's voice.**

Walk, then, rejoicing as children of light. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

**#715 Christ, Be Our Light**

## Litany for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The people who heard you speak, O Lord, declared,  
**“What is this? A new teaching, with authority!”**

You taught forgiveness.

**You taught the need for healing.**

You taught peace and compassion.

**May we always trust in your authority to do the things that you have taught.**

## Hymn of Praise

## Arise and Shine

Refrain

A - rise and shine! Your light\_\_ has come to all who dwell in dark-ness.

A - rise and shine, for in\_\_ our midst the light of Christ is with us.

1. We\_\_ who walked in dark of night, have seen a great light.  
 2. Un - to us a child was born, a Son was\_\_ giv'n.

*to refrain*

A star has shown our Lord was born; the dawn on this\_\_ new day.\_\_  
 Bap-tized by John\_\_ now he reigns as migh - ty Prince of Peace.

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## Apostolic Greeting

Arise shine; for the Light has come!

**The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### First Reading

### Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Reading

### Psalm 111

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

Let us read responsively from Psalm 111.

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

### Second Reading

### 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gospel Acclamation

## Arise, Be Clothed in the Light

A - rise, be clothed in the light. \_\_\_ A - rise, be clothed in the light. \_\_\_

Your light \_\_\_ has come, your light \_\_\_ has come. Al - le - lu - ia. \_\_\_

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Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

The Holy Gospel from Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Kristin Nielsen

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

**#614 There is a Balm in Gilead**

*(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he**

**descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.*

## Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

...God of Grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## Meal

### Musical Offering

*Alabaré [O Praise the Lord] – arr. Hal Hopson  
Senior Choir, Brian Smith, Percussion*

***Alabaré, Alabaré, Alabaré a mi Señor. O praise the Lord. O praise the Lord. O praise the name of the Lord.***

*John saw the angels, and all the saints of heaven; yes all were singing "Glory" to the Lord. Voices resounding, praises abounding, yes, all were singing "Glory" to the Lord. [Refrain]*

*All were together, thousands upon thousands; yes, singing to the Lamb upon the throne. "Power and blessing," their joy confessing, yes, singing to the Lamb upon the throne. [Refrain]*

*All living creatures, all the earth and heaven, they joined to sing their praises to the Lord. "Blessing and honor," "Glory and power" be lifted to the Lord forevermore. [Refrain]*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Offertory Response

**#181 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**

### Offertory Prayer

God, though we are weakened by sin, still, you provide us with every good thing. Even more, you strengthen us to stand in your presence to offer you these gifts. Use them to build up your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Words of Institution

### The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### Invitation to Communion

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**We come to be filled with light and life.**

*Please be seated.*

### Call to Communion

#### All Are Welcome (Stanza 3)

Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
wheat: a\_\_ ban - quet hall on ho - ly\_\_ ground where peace and\_ jus - tice  
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and  
space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees\_ us: All are wel - come,  
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.\_\_\_\_\_

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## Communion Hymn

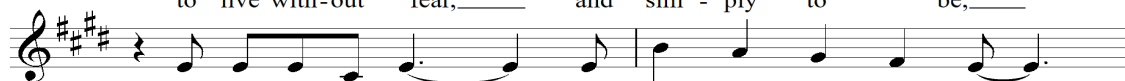
## For Everyone Born



1. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_  
 5. For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, \_\_\_



for ev - ery - one born, \_\_\_ clean wa - ter and bread, \_\_\_  
 re - vis - ing the roles, \_\_\_ de - cid - ing the share, \_\_\_  
 a voice to be heard, \_\_\_ a part in the song, \_\_\_  
 op - press - or, op - pressed, \_\_\_ with need to for - give, \_\_\_  
 to live with - out fear, \_\_\_ and sim - ply to be, \_\_\_



a shel - ter, a space, \_\_\_ a safe place for grow - ing \_\_\_  
 with wis - dom and grace \_\_\_ di - vid - ing the pow - er, \_\_\_  
 the hand of a child \_\_\_ in hands that are wrin - kled, \_\_\_  
 in an - ger, in hurt, \_\_\_ a mind - set of mer - cy, \_\_\_  
 to work, to speak out, \_\_\_ to wit - ness and wor - ship, \_\_\_



for ev - ery - one born, \_\_\_ a star \_\_\_ o - ver - head.  
 for wom - an and man, \_\_\_ a sys - tem that's fair.  
 for young and for old \_\_\_ the right \_\_\_ to be - long.  
 for just and un - just, \_\_\_ a new \_\_\_ way to live.  
 for ev - ery - one born, \_\_\_ the right \_\_\_ to be free.



And God \_\_\_ will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of



jus - tice \_\_\_ and joy, \_\_\_ com - pas - sion and



peace: \_\_\_ yes, God \_\_\_ will de - light when we are cre -



a - tors of jus - tice, \_\_\_ jus - tice and joy.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

**Amen.**

### Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have strengthened us with this heavenly food. You have strengthened us, as well, with unity. Make us a strong people, O Christ, to battle all manner of dangers. We bless you now and evermore.

**Amen.**

## Sending

### Benediction for the Epiphany Season

May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ shine in our hearts, transform our lives, and brighten the world.

**May God, who lightens our paths, accompany us on our journey this day and always.**

Since we have been called to participate in God's ministry, let us offer ourselves to God and to the world. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song

### **#310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude



## Scripture for Fourth Sunday of Epiphany – January 28, 2024

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading -- Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] 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 anymore, 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.”

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading -- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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.

### Gospel Reading -- Mark 1:21-28

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.”

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.