

Third Sunday after Epiphany 23 January 2022



This is the Kvindherred Church in Rosendal, Norway established in 1255. Many of our early pioneers were baptized and confirmed in this church. On leaving Norway, some of our people carried letters written by the Kvindherred pastor attesting to their membership.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.
There is a time of silence for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn #886 “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Greeting (page 138)

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie (pages 138-139; spoken responsively)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise: "This is the feast..." (pages 140-141)

Prayer of the Day

Readings

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

Gospel Acclamation (page 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

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

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

Children's Sermon – Pastor Roberta

Sermon – Pastor Roberta

Hymn #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed (page 105)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

(Each petition ends: P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.)

Offering

Great Thanksgiving (page 144; spoken responsively)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, holy, holy Lord..." (page 144)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (page 145)

**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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

"Lamb of God..." (page 146)

Hymn #239 "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer Blessing

Hymn #843 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news. C: Thanks be to God!

Ringling of the Bell / Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Roberta Pierce

Organist: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: Kara Olson

Lector: Cindy Burke

Communion Assistant: Cindy Burke

Usher: Joe Morehead

Cleaners: Dan and Cindy Burke

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This Week At A Glance

Wednesday 6:00 pm Confirmation class at Faith

7:00 pm Bible Jam at Faith

Sunday 8:00 am Worship Service at Faith

9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's

10:30 am Worship Service at Our Savior's
am

Those to keep in prayer: Velma Jensen, Yale Christensen, Paul Rock, Megan Mineck Wentland, Ryan Dick, Neil Mason, Betty Schau, Tim Burke, Jim Goddard, Barb Johnson; the homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Norman Bousselot, Joan Shelton, and Myrna Kay Petersen; and those serving in the military.

Annual Meetings will be held on Sunday, January 30, following the church service. No Sunday School will be held this Sunday.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rose Schrott Taylor

In his latest novel *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Anthony Doerr explores, among other things, how stories come to be — not how they are written, but how they survive. He focuses on a (fictional) Greek manuscript and portrays some of the hands and lives that it passes through to survive millennia. Reading this book brought me back to my summer studying ancient Greek in seminary and our conversations around the art and history of translation, the different scrolls that have been debated and combined into our modern versions of the Bible.

What a miracle the Bible is. Beyond the God-breathed stories, I'm talking about the physical book. Imagine all the hands that have touched these texts over millennia. The scribes, bent over poor candlelight, tracking words on one papyrus with one hand while they copy the text with their other hand on a new, clean sheet. The dusty, dark rooms that scrolls were kept in, and sometimes forgotten about (as we see when Hilkiah finds the Torah in 2 Chronicles 34:14-16). The stories of ancestors that were told around the firelight, whispered into ears of sleepy children, and proclaimed over meals that, eventually, were written into a narrative. The Bible is a miracle. It is full of human effort, mistakes, and edits. Yet, God blesses it and uses it as a gift to call us to God's self, to remind us of our history. The Bible is our inheritance. It is a constant reminder that God is with us, in all our humanness.

Perhaps this is why the people of Israel wept when they heard Ezra read from the Torah in the shadow of the newly constructed walls of Jerusalem after their Babylonian captivity (Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10). Perhaps this is why Jesus chooses to begin his public ministry in Luke's Gospel by reading from Isaiah in the Temple of his childhood (Luke 4:14-21). Perhaps this is why Psalm 19 calls the law of the Lord sweeter than "drippings of the honeycomb"

(v.10). God is with us. In all our human shortcomings, in our pain, in our revisionist history, in our anger, in our joy, God is with us. As we move through the season of Epiphany, the church calendar invites us to look for the ways that God reveals God's self to us. As Psalm 19 reminds us, the revelation of our Creator is constant and vast, whether it is in the complexity of the universe, the lives of others who follow God, the honest prayers of those who see their shortcomings, the quiet gifts of protection strength, and courage, and the dialogues of faith we have with ourselves, our community, and God. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 reminds us, too, that God reveals God's self through our community and the combination of all of our gifts. God's presence is not limited to the physical pages of our Bible, the stories these pages contain, or the story of how these pages came to be. God is everywhere and in everything. But God *is* in the pages of our Bibles – in the stories they contain and in the story of how those pages came to be. What a miracle the Bible is.