

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

30 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 #668 “O Zion, Haste”

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 #715 “Christ, Be Our Light”

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 #520 "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Blessing

Hymn #748 "O God in Heaven"

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: Brian Bousselot
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: 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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

In the readings for this Sunday, we find the themes of proclamation and prophecy in the first reading and the Gospel reading. We continue our reading in 1 Corinthians, this week highlighting the virtue of love over all other gifts.

In the first reading from Jeremiah 1, the prophet expresses his feeling of inadequacy to proclaim God's word. The Lord assures him, however, by saying:

“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” (Jeremiah 1:7-8).

The Lord comforts Jeremiah in his doubts and insecurities. He assures him that he will be with him and that he will protect him as he fulfills his calling. Like Jeremiah, we too can feel insecure at times for any number of reasons. However, if we feel the Lord has called us to a certain vocation or task, he will go before us and sustain us in that endeavor.

Psalms 71, the psalm of response, echoes this theme as well. The psalmist writes:

“In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.
Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress” (Psalm 71:1-3).

The psalmist finds his refuge in the Lord. God is a “strong fortress” to him. The psalmist has put his trust in the Lord since he was young. Some of us have walked with God the majority of our lives; we have known God’s faithfulness since we were young. This kind of track record is helpful with each new trial or circumstance that we face. We can look back on our lives and recount the many ways God has cared for us and rescued us.

The second reading from 1 Corinthians 13 highlights love above all other gifts. The apostle 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” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2).

Paul makes it clear that without love, our gifts are worthless. We exercise our gifts to edify the body. If we don’t love our brothers and sisters in the Lord, then our service is in vain; it is like a “noisy gong” or a “clanging cymbal.” Paul goes on to describe the nature of true love. He writes:

“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 wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

This is such a beautiful definition of what love and how it is lived out in our relationship with others. As we live and serve alongside others, we exercise love by being patient; by not being resentful; by bearing and enduring all things together. Paul has to spell this out for us because loving others is hard work and goes against our natural inclinations. We naturally want to hold a grudge, do things

our own way, and look after ourselves. Paul makes love tangible for us; he doesn't keep it in the abstract.

The Gospel reading from Luke 4 continues the narrative from last week. After Jesus opened and read from the scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth, the people who were at once amazed by his words soon turned on him. The reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany is like "the rest of the story." Soon, the people began to remark and say things like, "Is not this Joseph's son?" (Luke 4:22). They began to look at Jesus as just a boy who grew up in their hometown. Surely, he couldn't be anyone special. To this Jesus responds, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown" (Luke 4:24).

Jesus then recounts the narratives of Elijah and Elisha and how these prophets were not sent to their own people, but to outsiders. Luke describes the peoples' response in this manner:

"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" (Luke 4:28-30).

Jesus caused quite an uproar in pointing out the blindness and hard-heartedness of the Nazarenes. They couldn't accept that Jesus was the messiah. And, thus, they were so full of rage that they tried to kill him. We, too, will face opposition. We may even experience shame from others who cannot accept a particular call on our lives. For some people, we will always be just young so and so. This was the issue that Jeremiah faced, feeling that he was too young or unfit to be a prophet.

This is why it is so important to live in community with other believers who can affirm our calling. We don't listen to the doubters or those without any genuine faith; we listen to the

community of true believers who know us and to the voice of the Spirit who leads and guides us.

During this season of Epiphany we continue to reflect on the nature of Jesus' identity. He was anointed one sent to be our Messiah. He is our true prophet, priest, and king. And we are sent to exercise our own gifts to edify one another and to proclaim the good news of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension. May God be our refuge and strength, our strong fortress, as we follow him and make disciples. And may we love, direct and guide all that we do in Christ's name.