

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday, January 28, 2024 ~ 8:15 and 10:30 am

8:15 am Sunday Attendees:

If you do not wish to take today's bulletin with you,
please return it to an usher as you leave



In Jonah, the reluctant prophet learns how great is God's mercy. Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. Tax collectors were agents of the oppressive empire, and they also had a reputation for extorting more than they had to collect. Jesus' calling Levi to follow him showed that Jesus not only associated with "bad guys," he welcomed them into his inner circle. His sharing a meal with Levi and other tax collectors and "sinners" is a demonstration of the mercy of God. The meal we share at Jesus' table reminds us of God's mercy, love, and grace.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org)
425 N. Main Street, Russell, KS 67665 ~ 785-483-5358
email: stjohn@ruraltel.net ~ website: stjohnrussell.com
Pastor Teri Sutherlin (620-521-6454) ~ John Dumler, PMA (785-483-1382)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 ~ 8:15 AND 10:30 AM
LITURGY FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, YEAR B

PRELUDE.....St. John Ringers Bell Choir (10:30 am)

CALL TO WORSHIPSt. John Ringers Bell Choir (10:30 am)
“Breathe”; Music by Marie Barnett Incorporating *Trentham*; Arranged by Derek K. Hakes

WELCOME AND COMING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: 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. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

THE GREETING

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.

GATHERING HYMN "O One with God the Father!"; Verses 1 - 3; LBW 77



1 O one with God the Fa - ther in maj - es - ty and might,
2 Yet, Lord, we see but dim - ly; O heav'n-ly Light, a - rise;
3 O Je - sus, shine a - round us with ra - diance of your grace;



the bright-ness of his glo - ry, e - ter - nal Light of light:
dis - pel these mists that shroud us and hide you from our eyes.
O Je - sus, turn up - on us the bright-ness of your face.



to gloom-y haunts of dark - ness your rays are stream-ing down;
We long to track the foot - prints where you your - self have trod;
We need no star to guide us, as on our way we press,



the shad - ows flee be - fore you, the world's true light has come.
we long to see the path - way that leads to you, our God.
if you will light our path - way, O Sun of righ - teous - ness.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE, M. v. Werkmeister, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle*, 1784

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Please join me in prayer. Compassionate God,

C: 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.

Congregation may be seated

THE READING OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

A READING FROM PSALM: PSALM 111

L: ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

C: ²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

L: ³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

C: ⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

L: ⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

C: ⁶You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

L: ⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

C: ⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

L: ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

C: ¹⁰The 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 (Contemporary English Version)

¹ In your letter you asked me about food offered to idols. All of us know something about this subject. But knowledge makes us proud of ourselves, while love makes us helpful to others. ² In fact, people who think they know so much don't know anything at all. ³ But God has no doubts about who loves him.

⁴ Even though food is offered to idols, we know that none of the idols in this world are alive. After all, there is only one God. ⁵ Many things in heaven and on earth are called gods and lords, but none of them really are gods or lords. ⁶ We have only one God, and he is the Father. He created everything, and we live for him. Jesus Christ is our only Lord. Everything was made by him, and by him life was given to us.

⁷ Not everyone knows these things. In fact, many people have grown up with the belief that idols have life in them. So when they eat meat offered to idols, they are bothered by a weak conscience. ⁸ But food doesn't bring us any closer to God. We are no worse off if we don't eat, and we are no better off if we do.

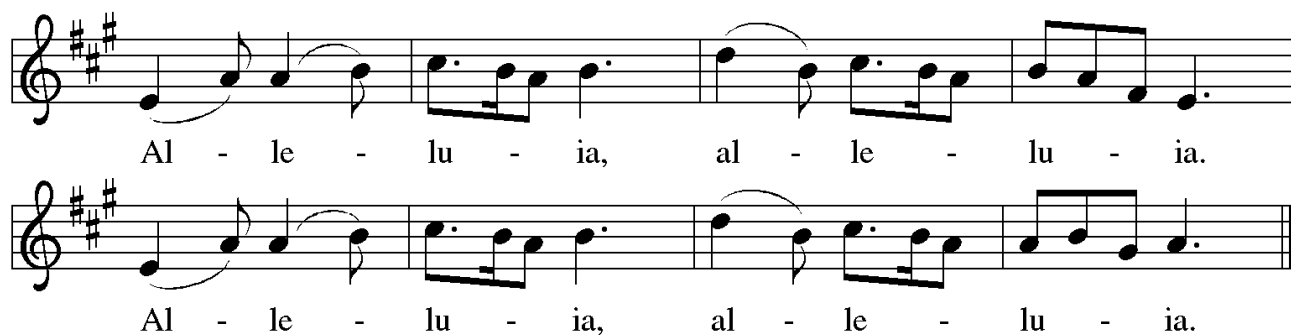
⁹ Don't cause problems for someone with a weak conscience, just because you have the right to eat anything. ¹⁰ You know all this, and so it doesn't bother you to eat in the temple of an idol. But suppose a person with a weak conscience sees you and decides to eat food that has been offered to idols. ¹¹ Then what you know has destroyed someone Christ died for. ¹² When you sin by hurting a follower with a weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ So if I hurt one of the Lord's followers by what I eat, I will never eat meat as long as I live.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Service Music; ELW 262



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark 2:13-22

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. ¹⁴As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

¹⁵And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples — for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

²¹No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. ²²And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

HYMN OF THE DAY "I Love to Tell the Story"; Verses 1 & 2; LBW 390



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry



and tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William G. Fischer, 1835–1912

THE SERMON Pr. Teri Sutherlin

Please stand as you are able

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: With our faith in Jesus Christ, let all the people of God confess their faith of the church:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

A brief silence.

P: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer. *(repeat response after each petition)*

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: 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.

THE SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Congregation members may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace as you are comfortable doing so, saying, "Peace be with you", or similar words.

THE OFFERTORY..... "O Lord, I Worship You"; ASG 30

1 O Lord, I wor-ship you, and hon-or you; my emp-ty hands I
lift to you. I speak your prais-es all the day be-cause I
love you. So I will make my life an
of-fer-ing and share your love, that more may sing sim-ple
songs of grate-ful joy: "You are my Lord."

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN "Will You Come and Follow Me (*The Summons*)"; Verses 1 & 2; ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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BLESSING AND SENDING

P: God who names us, Christ who claims us, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, ✝ bless us and remain with us always.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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CALENDAR

Mon, Jan 29 Prayer Shawl Ministry (10:00 am)

Tues, Jan 30 Quilting Ministry (1:30 pm)
..... Education Committee Meeting (6:30 pm)

Wed, Jan 31 425 Youth (6:30 pm)
..... St. John Ringers (6:30 pm)
..... Agape Choir (7:30 pm)

Thurs, Feb 1 Bible Study with Pastor (1:30 pm)

Sat, Feb 3 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Worship (6:00 pm)

Sun, Feb 4 Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Worship with Communion (8:15 am)
..... Sunday School and Confirmation Classes (9:15 am)
..... Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Worship with Communion (10:30 am)
..... Care Center Worship (2:00 to 4:00 pm)

Tues, Feb 6 Council Executive Committee (5:30 pm)

Thurs, Feb 8 St. John Women's Bible Study (10:00 am)

..... Bible Study with Pastor (1:30 pm)

..... Russell County Association of Churches at Otterbein (6:30 pm)

Thurs, Feb 15 ... Bible Study with Pastor (1:30 pm)

..... Church Council (6:30 pm)

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LENTEN SEASON AT ST. JOHN

Ash Wednesday (Wed, Feb 14)

425 Youth Ash Wednesday Soup Supper (5:30 - 6:45 pm)

Ash Wednesday Worship including imposition of ashes and communion (7:00 pm)

St. John Midweek Lenten Services in Chapel (6:00 to 6:30 pm)

Wednesdays, February 21 through March 20

Holy Week

Sat and Sun, March 23 and 24: Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday Worship (all services)

Thurs, March 28: Maundy Thursday Worship (7:00 pm)

Friday, March 29: Good Friday Worship (7:00 pm)

Sat, March 30: Easter Vigil Worship (6:00 pm)

Sun, March 31: Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Worship (times TBD)

2024 Russell County Association of Churches Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays at Noon

"Jesus teaches us to pray"

Wed, Feb 21..... St. John Lutheran Church

Wed, Feb 28..... Trinity United Methodist Church

Wed, March 6..... Location TBA

Wed, March 13.... Otterbein Methodist Church

Wed, March 20.... St. Mary Queen of Angels

Wed, March 27.... First Congregational Church

RCAOC Community Good Friday Service - Noon - Otterbein Methodist Church

ADDITIONS TO THE PRAYER LIST

OUR SYMPATHIES AND GOD'S COMFORT TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- All **2023 Contribution Statements** have been printed and are now available. If you are unable to pick up your Contribution Statement, please contact the office to make other arrangements. Statements not picked up by February 12 will be shredded.

- **St. John provides a variety of Meal Ministries** supporting and celebrating special events and weekly activities throughout the year:
 - 425 Youth Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Easter Breakfast
 - RCAOC Lenten Luncheon
 - Weekly 425 Youth Group meetings
 - Weekly Heart2Home deliveries
 - Funeral Luncheons

Monetary donations are appreciated for any of these ministries and may be placed in the offering plate at any service, or left at the office. Please indicate the ministry you are supporting in the memo field of your check, or on your envelope.

Please check with the office to donate ingredients, baked goods, snacks, main dishes, etc. Many of these ministries are also in need of volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up meals served in the Parish Hall. Volunteers are also needed to provide outreach and make deliveries.

And all St. John members are asked to lift up each of these ministries in prayer. "Prayer is not the least we can do for someone; prayer is the most we can do." - Unknown.

St. John Lutheran Church Winter Weather Policy

The safety and well-being of our members and staff is a primary concern so in the event of bad weather during the winter there may be times when the church will be closed, meetings cancelled, or worship services cancelled.

During the winter months, cancellations and closures may be the result of weather conditions, staff unable to get to the church, impassable roads, problems with the building, or other unforeseen situations.

Winter weather conditions may necessitate cancelling services based on street conditions, sidewalk, and parking conditions, and City of Russell plowing schedules. St. John Lutheran Church services and activities will be cancelled in the following situations:

- we are experiencing subzero temperatures or windchill,
- we have six or more inches of accumulated or new snowfall,
- we are experiencing an ice storm,
- we are experiencing a power outage,
- during week days we will follow the City of Russell/Russell Schools closure
- in rare event that local or state government declares “a state of emergency”

If the church is closed or worship is cancelled this information will be posted on the KRSL website and if possible, signs posted on the church doors.

If services are not cancelled, members are encouraged to use their best judgement in terms of safety for driving to services. If you have concerns about your safety for any reason, please do not drive.

If services are not cancelled, our 8:15 am and 10:30 am Sunday services are livestreamed on stjohnrussell.com. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, the 10:30 am service is broadcast on KRSL 98.1 FM/990 AM and NexTech Cable Channel 130.



St. John Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 2024 ~ Immediately following 10:30 Worship