#### **Epiphany 4 Jan 28 2024**

# **Confession and Forgiveness**

page 94

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God, 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 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\pm$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

# Gathering Hymn 654

## The Church's One Foundation



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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#### **GATHERING Page 203**

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

And also with you.

Gloria page 204



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

#### 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.** 

#### **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.

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>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." <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I

myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>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."

The Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### **Psalm: 111**

Refrain is played through once, cantor sings the second time, congregation joins on the third and then as the Psalm.



Psalm 111:10

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

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with | my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your | works, O Lord, pondered by all who de- | light in them.

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds, and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to | be remembered; you are gracious and full | of compassion. R

<sup>5</sup>You give food to | those who fear you, remembering forev- | er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power | of your works in giving them the lands | of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice; all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forev- | er and ever,

because they are done in | truth and equity. R

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever; holy and awesome | is your name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the Lord is the begin- | ning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures forever. R

#### **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.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

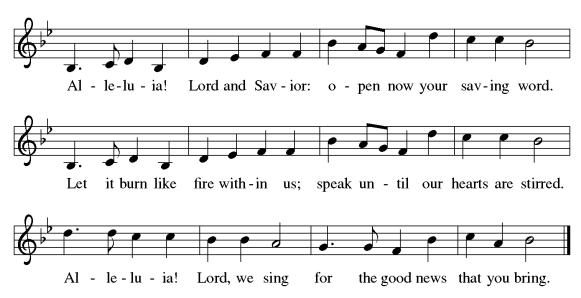
<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there 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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>"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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

# **Gospel Acclamation Page 205**



The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

**Page 206** 

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.

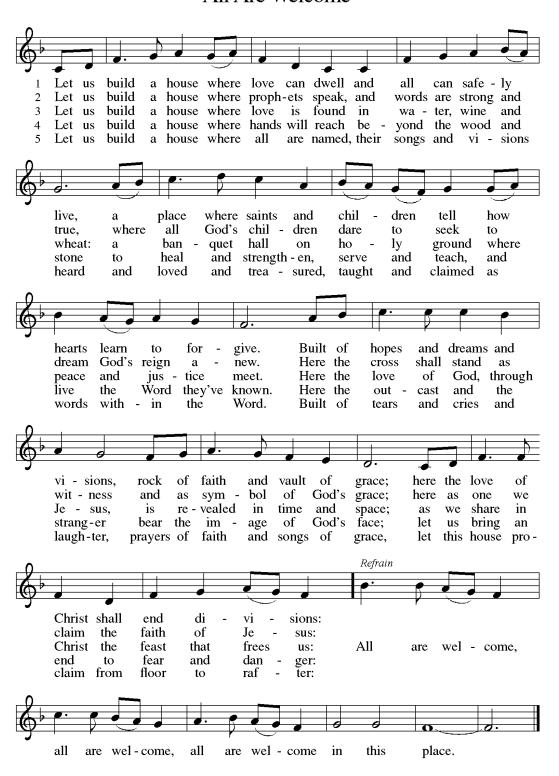
<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>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." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW 641

# All Are Welcome



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**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.

#### **Installation of Congregation Council**

#### **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.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. We pray for our sisters and brothers at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge and their servant Elizabeth, SLC Health System Service in Wheat Ridge and their servant Alicia, and for Glory of God Wheat Ridge in Wheat Ridge and their servant Mandy. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. We pray for the hostages in Gaza, the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Central America. God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer especially Lana Marsh, Brian Green, Beth Rolfe, Beth Babcock, the Family of Michael Archuletta, Aaron Shaha, Jean Lemesany, the Family of Connie Johnson, Kristin Esher, Della Mussey, John Keller, Barb Minix, Araceli Gomez and those we name with our lips or in our hearts ....

God of grace,

## receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love.

God of grace,

## receive our prayer.

Hear the prayers for those celebrating good things this week, for your servants Walter Bennett, Calvin Jolly, and Aria Teetor who recall the day of their birth and rejoice in your gifts of life and love, family and friends. Bless them with your presence and surround them with your love that they may enjoy many happy years, all of them pleasing to You.

God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Bishop Ansgar, missionary to Denmark and Sweden*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

God of grace,

# receive our prayer.

(Pastor) 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**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

#### **Offertory ELW 811**

# On My Heart Imprint Your Image



Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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# **Offering Prayer**

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

# GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

**page 190** 

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 our thanks and praise.

#### **Preface for Epiphany**

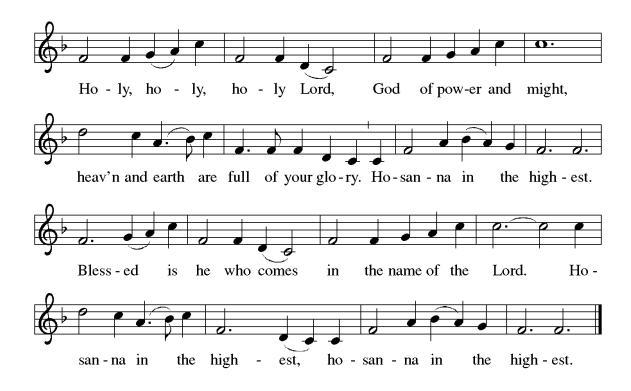
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy page 207



#### Thanksgiving at the Table

**page 110** 

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

#### Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

#### Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



# The Lord's Prayer

**page 208** 

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

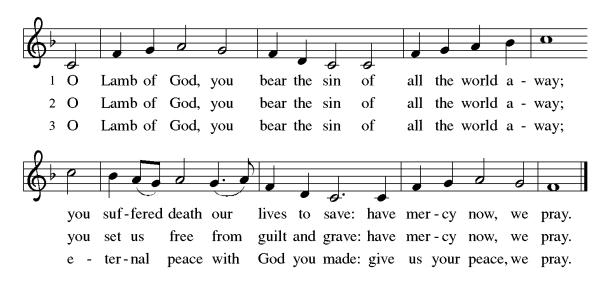
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

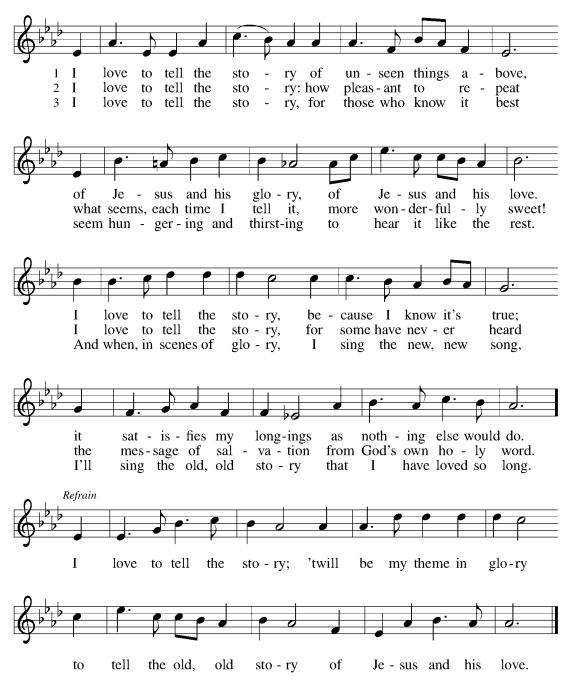
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.** 

# Lamb of God page 208



# **Communion Hymn ELW 661**

# I Love to Tell the Story



Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

# **Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ₱ give you peace.

Amen.

#### Announcements

Sending Hymn ELW 796

# How Firm a Foundation



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

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#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

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