

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Sunday, January 29, 2023
Holy Communion

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**
Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Holy, Holy, Holy* LBW # 165

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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

Let us pray. **Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

+ *Please be seated*

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Lord, Keep Your Hand On Me*

FIRST READING: Micah 6: 1-8

The First Reading is from the 6th chapter of Micah.

¹Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 15 (Please read responsively)

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human

standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”


The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Please stand as you are able.*


GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: **Matthew 5: 1-12**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

+ *Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward for time with the Pastor.*

CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Rise Up, O Saints of God* **LBW # 383**

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.
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 into hell.
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 THE PEOPLE

Response: God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

DIALOGUE

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

HOLY. HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

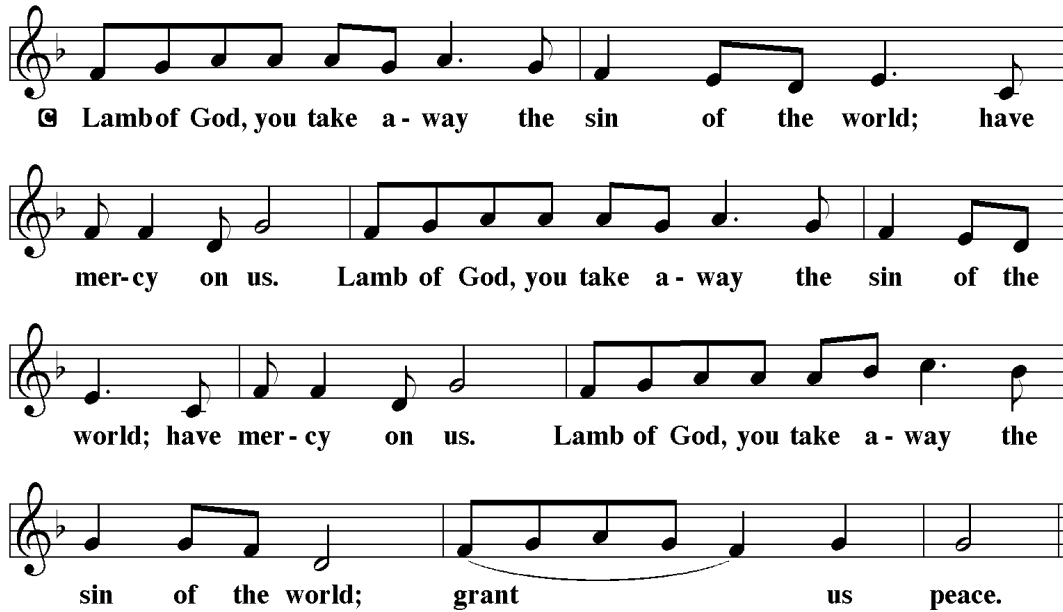
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

+ *Please be seated.*

LAMB OF GOD



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ spreads a table before you. Gather here with all the saints.

COMMUNION

All baptized children of God are welcome at the Lord's Table, when we celebrate and receive the true presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and fruit of the vine.

Communion will be received in a continuous line. Come forward, forming a line down the center aisle. Stop at the end of the aisle, receive your bread, empty cup, and wine.

Grape juice is available in the pre-poured cups in the middle of the tray.

There is no need to hurry through Communion. Please take as much time as you wish for prayer and reflection.

If you are more comfortable remaining in your seat for Communion, individual bags containing Communion elements are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. For those with mobility issues, the Pastor can bring Communion to you at your seat.

As the bread and wine/grape juice are given, the following is said:

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

*Each person may respond **Amen**. As you receive the bread and wine/grape juice, saying "Amen" means "Yes, truly, it is so: this is the body and blood of Jesus, given for me."*

After you have received Communion, please place your empty cup in the bowl, then return to your seat.

After all have received Communion, the Pastor will ask the congregation to stand, then give a blessing, ending with the following words:

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Jesus, The Very Thought of You* LBW # 316

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may contact Pastor Stina at any time: **stinaschaeffer@gmail.com.**

There are 2 options offered for **Communion**: Option 1- the “old way” of coming forward to receive bread and wine/juice and then return to your seat. Option 2 – for those who prefer to remain in your seat, small individual bags with bread & wine/juice are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary for you to pick-up as you arrive for worship. For those with mobility issues, the Pastor can bring Communion to you at your seat. **The basement remains available**, with the service being live-streamed, for those who are more comfortable being separate from the sanctuary. The service also continues to be posted on our website.

Offerings: Offering plates will not be passed, but for your convenience, are located at the back of the sanctuary to receive your offerings as you enter.

Reading today’s lessons is Donna Moyer.

Choir Practice will be held tonight at 6:00 pm.

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE to submit articles for the February newsletter. Please give all items you wish to have included in the newsletter to the Secretary (Imaurer56@outlook.com) by the deadline. Thank you!

The **Ladies WELCA Meeting** will be held (weather permitting) **THIS Wednesday**, February 1st at 7:00 pm. **ALL Ladies** of the church and Sunday School are invited.

Family Ministry will be held **NEXT Sunday, February 5th** following the Worship Service.

Prayer Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 8th** at 7:00 pm.

A TASTE OF CAMP



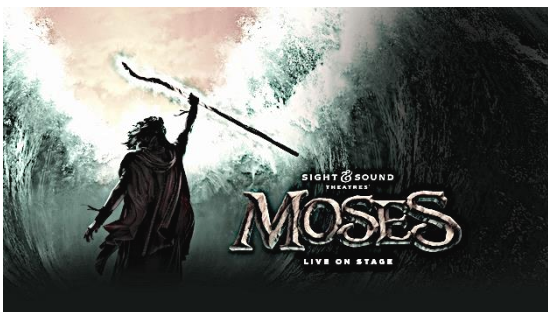
Are you hungry for camp but can't wait until the summer? Did you always want to try camp but weren't sure if you'd like it? Come to Camp Mt. Luther on **Sunday, February 5th from 2:00 - 5:00 pm** for songs, games, food, a campfire & information about the 2023 camping program. Who can come? Returning campers, new campers, parents, camp persons, those still-on-the-fence about going to camp, and everyone else who wants to have a good time!



“SWEETHEART DINNER”! Mark your calendars for **February 12th following Worship**. A “Sweetheart Dinner” of Chicken & Shrimp Alfredo will be served. **EVERYONE** is invited to attend! **Please complete the sign-up slip** in today's bulletin and **put it in the offering plate as you leave**. It is important to have an accurate count of those attending to assure there are enough place settings and food. **The deadline to submit sign-up slips is NEXT SUNDAY, January 29th**. Come enjoy a delicious lunch with your Salem brothers and sisters. We hope to see you there!

Adult Sunday School is held each Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us as we open the Scriptures and learn with and from one another.

The new Reader's sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please stop by and sign-up to read the Sunday lessons. Readers are always needed and much appreciated. The Lessons are posted for your convenience as they are received.



SIGHT & SOUND! Together with Milton Lutheran Church, we are planning a trip to *Sight & Sound Theaters* for their Spring production of “**Moses**”. On **Wednesday, April 19th**, we will depart from Salem Lutheran Church at 8:30 am and return is estimated for 6:00 pm. The show is at 11:00 am. The cost is \$135, which includes your “Moses” ticket, bus, gratuity for the driver and lunch at Shady Maple. We have 25 spots available for Salem. Sign-ups will begin February 1st. Please see Brenda Stranko to sign-up. Checks can be made payable to Milton Lutheran Church.

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is hanging in the vestibule. Choose a Sunday, sign-up to provide altar flowers. If they are for a special occasion or in memory of someone, please contact the Secretary so it can be noted in the bulletin.

If you would like to receive offering envelopes for 2023, but did not receive them, please notify the Treasurer, Toni Longacre (toni17801@verizon.net) or the Secretary (lmaurer56@outlook.com). Thank you.



Don't forget to continue to support our College Students and those in the Military. Cards of encouragement and gift cards are sent to them to let them know their Salem Family is praying for and thinking about them. Donation cans are always available on the back table and on top of the sound system. If you have questions, please ask Linda Carl (dwarfgrumpy@yahoo.com). **Thank You** to all who continue to contribute.



Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA's **"Raise the Region"** on **March 8-9, 2023**. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at **6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 pm**. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and

incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Mount Luther these days go to the Camp's Annual Fund unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. **To be part of "Raise the Region", visit www.raisetheregion.org during the event and make an online donation to Camp Mt. Luther.** Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the "Raise the Region" website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in "Raise the Region" for ten-years and has garnered about \$179,000 in donations during this event. The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

UPCOMING EVENTS (all events are weather permitting)

Wednesday, February 1 – WELCA Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 5 – Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship & Holy Communion – 10:30 am

Family Ministry – following Worship

A Taste of Camp at Camp Mt. Luther – 2:00 – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8 – Prayer Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 12 – Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship & Holy Communion – 10:30 am

“Sweetheart Dinner” – following Worship – Everyone Invited!

Chicken & Shrimp Alfredo will be served

Monday, February 13 – Council Meeting – 7:00 pm