

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #671 "Shine, Jesus Shine"

Refrain: **Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

- 1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me: Refrain:**
- 2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell you story. Shine on me, shine on me: Refrain:**

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

⁷ But the LORD said to me,
"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.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD."

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's
womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And 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. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. You shall go to all to whom I send you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Luke, beginning with the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They 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. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #514 "O Word of God Incarnate"

- 1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O light of our dark sky; we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**
- 2. The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine; and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.**
- 3. Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold to bear before the nations your true light, as of old; oh, teach your wond'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.**

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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,
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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn: ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"

1. This little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a ;let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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Offering Prayer

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 thanks and praise.**

Preface

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.

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

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #838 "Beautiful Savior"

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
3. **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**
4. **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!**

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Post-communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

1. **"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my Love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**
2. **"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learn how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."**
3. **"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

- ✚ Thank You Jenna Couch for leading worship today.
- ✚ Calvary is still looking for one more volunteer to join the call committee. Please see Bob or Eric if you are interested.
- ✚ Calvary is still looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) to represent Calvary on the Welcome Committee, which is where Calvary and four other Mankato ELCA churches are sponsoring a family of four from Nicaragua. Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their two boys have been in Minnesota almost two years. This committee meets monthly at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Contact Bob Diesch or Jolene Anderson for more information on the committee.
- ✚ Prayers: Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Vivian, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Chloe, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Paul, Jeannie, Gregg Nelson and the Schwantes family.

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