

St. Mark 1:25

“But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent,
and come out of him”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (ELW) No. 733

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) 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.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *Blest Be The Ties That Bind* (ELW) NO. 656

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

January 28, 2024—Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

“Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2 -

We all cringe when we watch those “man on the street” episodes where people can’t answer simple questions about important issues. They are usually much better at the trivia related to the entertainment industry than the facts about history. It is not really that surprising: celebrities are far more interesting than history. We cringe because we know that those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it, but are we really any different?

Were we interested in learning history when our teachers were assigning lists of dates, names, and places for us to memorize? History does not seem relevant to us when we are young; it is old news that we memorize for a test and forget immediately. It is not until we get out in the world and we start to connect the stories of the past to what we see happening around us that we realize it is important and we begin to pay attention. History is not about memorizing names and dates; it is about the stories of the people who were there.

Sadly, many Christians have the same disinterest in the Old Testament. As children we learn bible stories in a way that holds our attention, with bright, colorful pictures and catchy little songs. Who among us hasn’t sung “Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones” sometime in our lives? As we grow older, however, we fail to move beyond that simple knowledge. We don’t pay attention to the details or see how God was working to move the world toward His Son. The Old Testament stories help us see how much we truly needed a Savior.

What is the point of the light if we never understand how we were lost in the darkness? We must have more than a Sunday school understanding of the scriptures. God is who He says He is, He can do what He says He will do, and He has done that and more. He is worthy to be praised; the works of His hands are extraordinary, life saving, eternal. In the stories of God’s works we see the power, mercy, and faithfulness on which we can trust. There is nothing trivial or irrelevant in that.

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, You know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of Your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without You, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with Your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 111

¹Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**²Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
and His righteousness endures forever.

**⁴He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear Him;
He remembers His covenant forever.

**⁶He has shown His people the power of His works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;

**⁸they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is His name!

**¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Children's Sermon

Pastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

There is a Balm in Gilead

(ELW) No. 614

Sacrament of Baptism for Christian Scott Fargo

(ELW) page 227 to 231

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope for Ethiopia funds are low, please donate.

Adult Catechism class is on Tuesday at 11 and 7 pm. We are discussing the book we read over the summer. All are welcome. We look forward to you joining us in our discussion.

Adult Sunday School is held before our Church Service starting at 9:45 am in the church library. Come join us.

Confirmation Class is Monday from 6-8 pm.

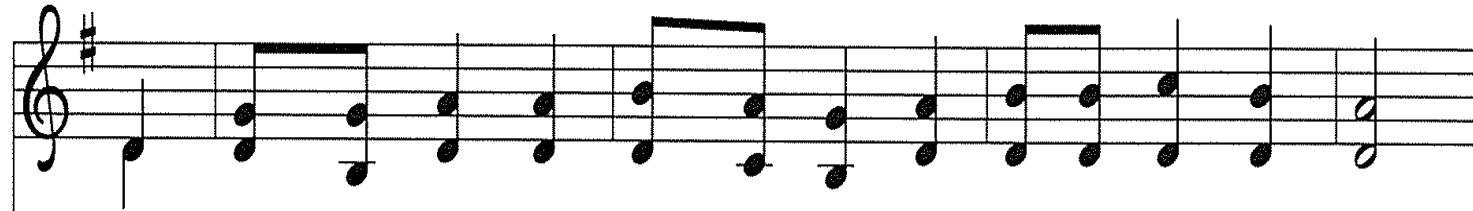
Bell Choir rehearsal is Monday at 7 pm. We would love for you to join us. Please see Kris Briggs if you are interested, kkbrgs1@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Our **Dartball team** is looking for more members. Practices are Tuesdays at 7 pm. No experience is needed. Come join us for fun and fellowship. We hope to see you soon. Please contact Dennis Schmidt for information.

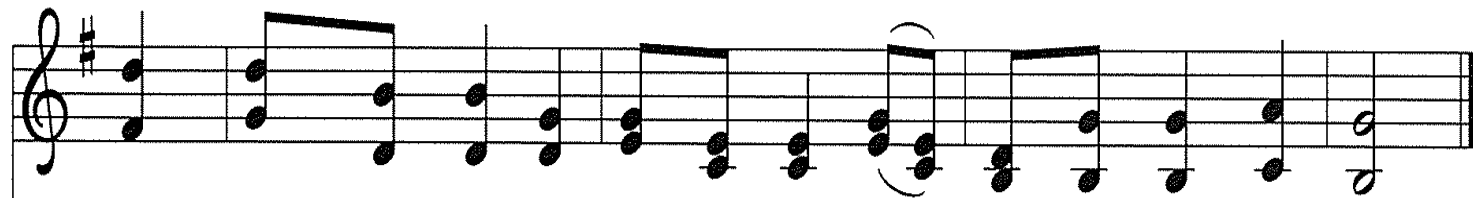
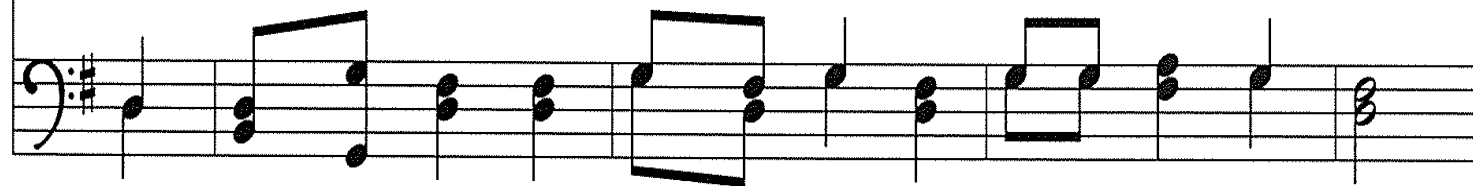
Chess Club meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome from beginners to experienced. We hope that you will join us for fellowship and fun. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

2023 Statements of Giving are available. See Kathleen following the Service.

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.



5 Look unto him, your Savior own, 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 O fallen human race! be now and ever giv'n
 Look and be saved through faith alone, by saints below and saints above,
 be justified by grace! the church in earth and heav'n.

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

(ELW) No. 886

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

First Lutheran Church

92 W. Walnut St., Washington, PA

724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

On line service posted weekly on website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Hager.

Acolytes are Wesley Black and Parker Lambert.

Counters/Greeters today are S. Berry and D. Schmidt.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain
but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2024. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2024. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia. Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Janet Burke, Shari Kienzle, Susan Westott, baby Isaac Christian, the Pollana family, Sylvia Sunstrum, Fritz Group, Eric Group, Danielle Sherman, Amy Verderber, Tillie and Larry, Lou Mayne, Judy, Debbie, Sayward, Jim H., Barbara Mounts, Chiquita Pearson, Tim and Sharon, Judy Coble, Gary Conti, Linnese, Karen and John, Neil Bassi, Phyllis Daniels, Simon Thorp, Josh, Anneliese Christian, Becky Wood, Apollos Yocca, Alex Houck, Bridgette, Rhonda Hendrickson, Ron Erdmann, Belinda, Wilda Durbin, Stacy Carroll, Emerson Dietrich, Leann Vitteck, Isabella & family, James, Billie Sue Serbak, Lori Mauer, Jennifer Brown, Mark Black, Emma Solich, Kenny & Josh Carl, Cindi and John Moore, Sean Shearer, Ed Dupas, Sandy Salerno, Gavazzi family, Janelle Henderson, Rex Gibson, Mike Phipps, and Brian & Holly Davis and family.

733

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

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Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2 Be-fore our Fa-ther's throne we pour our ar-dent prayers:
 3 We share our mu-tual woes, our mu-tual bur-dens bear,
 4 From sor-row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u-ni-ty of heart and mind is like to that a-bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares,
 and of-ten for each oth-er flows the sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.
 and per-fect love and friend-ship reign through all e-ter-ni-ty.