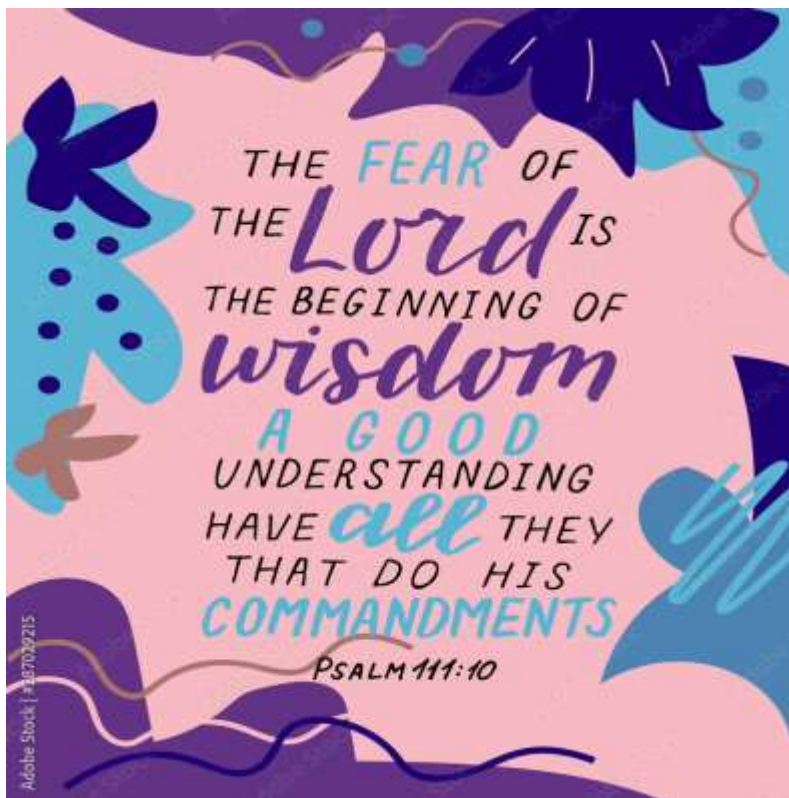


United Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024



WORSHIP PREPARATION PRAYER

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

To all in attendance today:

- Please fill out the attendance form found as an insert in the Weekly Witness and place it in the woven basket in the Narthex as you leave.
- You may take your used bulletin and Weekly Witness with you or place them in the basket in the Narthex.
- If you are unable to come to the altar, please indicate your desire for communion to an usher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITE OF BAPTISM

Page 227

◆ GATHERED IN GRATITUDE

C Baptized into the Body of Jesus Christ and Nourished by His Supper, we are United in Gratitude, Living Everywhere the Love of the Triune God.

**P I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.**

**C My soul makes it boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

**P O Magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.**

Psalm 34:1-3

◆ GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

P The Lord is with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us share that greeting with one another.

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage 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, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

◆ GATHERING HYMN







"Rise, Shine, You People!"
ELW #665

◆ GREETING

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

C And also with you.

◆ KYRIE

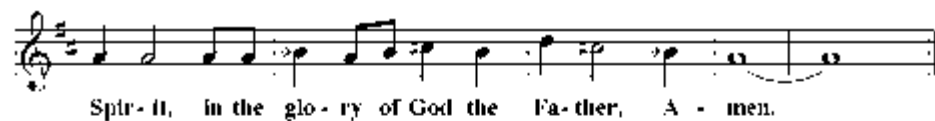
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
A Sy - n - e - c - e - le - i - son Lord, have mer - cy.	☒ Lord, have mer - cy.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
A Chri - ste - e - le - i - son Christ, have mer - cy.	☒ Christ, have mer - cy.
<i>Cantor</i>	<i>Congregation</i>
	
A Ky - ri - e - e - le - i - son Lord, have mer - cy.	☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

◆ HYMN OF PRAISE

Congregation



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the
right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



◆ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P O God,

C **you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that, with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This 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." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But 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."

A Word of God, word of life.

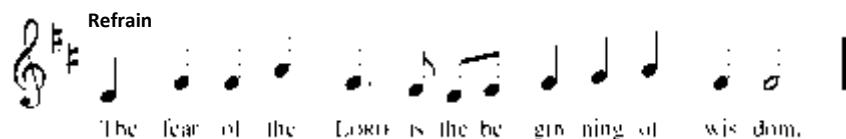
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

Cantor chants the light printed verses. Congregation chants the bold printed verses.



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

²Great are your ¹works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- ¹light in them.

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

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

⁵You give food to ¹those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹er your covenant.

**⁶You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful-¹ness and justice;
all of your pre-¹cepts are sure.

**8 They stand fast fore- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your cove-¹nant forever;
holy and awesome¹ is your name.

¹⁰ 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. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

⁴Hence, 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.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet 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.

⁷It 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. ⁸“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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.**

◆ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



◆ GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony

HYMN OF THE DAY

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

ELW #614

◆ **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Each Petition will end with the Pastor saying, "Lord in your mercy"
The congregation responds with, "Hear our Prayer"

◆ **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

OFFERTORY

"When in Our Music"
United Lutheran Choir
Charles Stanford, arr. Mark Patterson

◆ **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & TITHES**

◆ **OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of Abundance,

C surrounded by the logic of scarcity, we live by your Promise of Abundance. It is by that Promise that we give of ourselves. In our giving may we be the witness for which our community thirsts, namely, the living evidence that you are a God of Abundance. Amen

◆ GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Pastor *Congregation*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right . . . praise your name and join their unending hymn:

◆ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Congregation

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of power and
might. heav - en 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.

◆ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

◆ **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**

COMMUNION INVITATION

P Jesus Christ died and was raised for sinners. We qualify.

At United we practice Open Communion.

Those who will receive forgiveness of sins are welcome to the Table.

The dark colored liquid is wine, and the light colored liquid is grape juice.

For those who need an alternative to wheat flour wafers, gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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. grant us peace." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where the notes span across syllables.

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. grant us peace.

◆ THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

◆ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Crucified Lord,

C you have known us according to our deepest selves, yet you have called us to your table. We have betrayed and denied you in our daily lives, yet you have desired to feed us. You know our wavering commitments, yet you have desired to feed and equip us for your ministry. May the table fellowship to which you have invited us to day be the model for how we treat others this coming week. Amen.

◆ **BENEDICTION**

P Now receive the Benediction.

(Congregation: Face your neighbor.)

**C The Lord blesses you and keeps you;
The Lord's face shines upon you and is gracious to you;
The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace.**

◆ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord by taking care of one another.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Meister Eckhart Sayings and Quotes

The outward work
will never be puny
if the inward work
is great.

SENDING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

United Lutheran Church
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email: office@unitedlutheranlincoln.com

Our Staff

Pastor—Rev. Dr. Neal J. Anthony
Church Office Secretary—Karen Daffer Secretary for Pastoral Care—Marie Sandell
Bookkeeper—Jo Hill Financial Secretary—Denice Hoops
Choir Director—Julie Allen



Altar Flowers

are provided today to the glory of God
by **Barry & Karen Daffer**
in memory of their parents

Worship Leaders for January 28	
Leadership Position	Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Organist	Denice Hoops
Cantor	Lisa Von Busch
Acolyte	Annabeth Lynch
Lector	Karen Daffer
Communion Assistants	Kathy Tichota & Charles Yost
Usher & Greeter	Gary & Wendy Brown
Bulletin Artist	Tillie Ash
Parking Lot Monitor	Tim Sestak

Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.-noon.

Guidelines for Wedding, Baptism, and Funeral Services at United

Before setting a date or make plans for a wedding, baptism, or funeral at United, please contact the church office to clear a date. This is to ensure the availability of the pastor and facility. Baptisms and weddings are not done during the church season of Lent. Additionally, weddings are not held during Holy Week or busy church seasons.