



“Isn't this Joseph's son?”
Luke 4:22, NIV

January 30, 2022
Online Worship

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
RIC Sunday

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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Website:.....www.faithlutheranokemos.org
Facebook Page:.....facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

Introduction to the day

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.

PRELUDE

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

(arr. John Erickson)

Faith Bells, Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir, Congregation

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Holy Parent,

And of the + Child,

And of the Holy Spirit, ever-present in our lives.

Amen.

Your people, Lord, long to feel seen, named, and cared for.

The church has excluded and pushed away people, calling them "other" and "different"

And waits for those harmed to lead the work of reconciliation.

Today we worship, with open hearts and minds, readying ourselves for the holy ministry of justice and equity work.

As your people, we know God is with us

And that your Holy Spirit makes reconciliation possible.

As we learn how to make the church a safer space

We trust in the Spirit's guidance.

As we seek to be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and all who are told they are "other"

We trust in the Spirit's guidance.

As we seek to learn more about the intersectionality of ministry

We trust in the Spirit's guidance.

It is with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and grace of Jesus, we confess and ask forgiveness. We proclaim with joy and love that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions matter; that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) matter; that neuro-diversity and differing abilities of bodies are sacred; and that we as a

church stand firmly against racism, homophobia, transphobia, and any other sin that makes people feel less than because of who God lovingly made them to be. We commit our words and action to be ones of advocacy for all of the people in your Kin-Dom. Holy Creator, we celebrate your boundless diversity, and see the ways we are made in Your image.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness



- 1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
- 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
- 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
- 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

GATHERING

In God's Boundless Diversity, we are all Made in God's Image! We gather together in this time and space, breathing in the Spirit's invitation to connect and learn, and answer Jesus' call to justice and action.

I PLEDGE TO

To be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, and other siblings from God's diverse Kin-dom, we commit to daily bettering ourselves and being active in our advocacy. We dedicate ourselves to staying informed, speaking up, being honest, and supporting justice work everyday.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Mighty God, soften our hearts this day as we seek to hear your words and commands. In a world where we are daily confronted with ways we are different, told to make ourselves smaller for the convenience of others, teach us as your people how to celebrate your boundless diversity reflected in every person who is made in your image! To have safe spaces is to experience your saving grace. Guide us to be people of faith who are committed to learning and re-learning what it means to welcome, include, celebrate, and advocate for all you call Beloved. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMANT 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.

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁴Now 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.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But 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.

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

⁹Then 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.

¹⁰See, 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.”

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

NEW TESTAMANT 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.

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

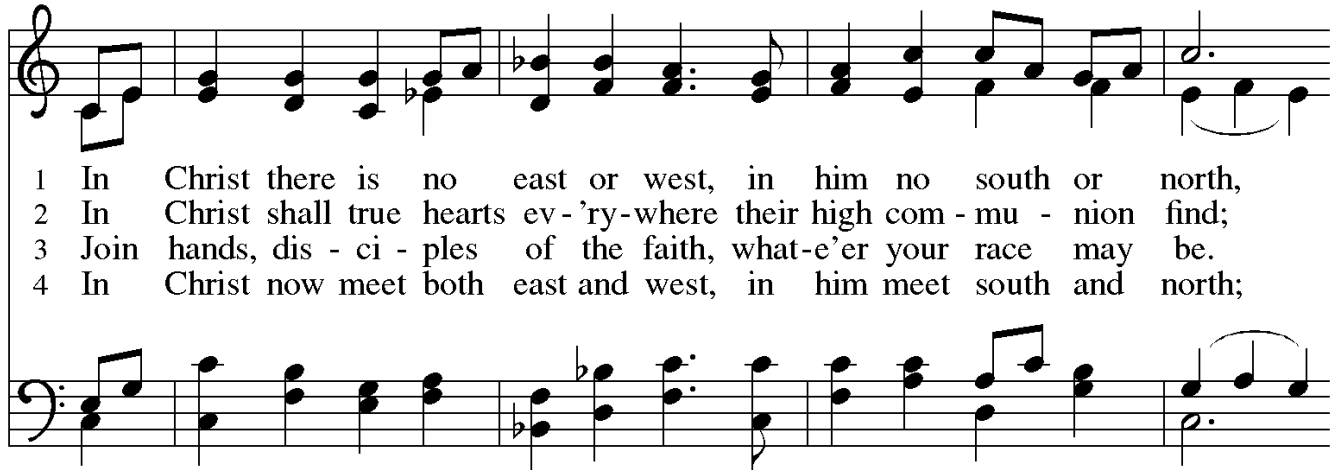
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

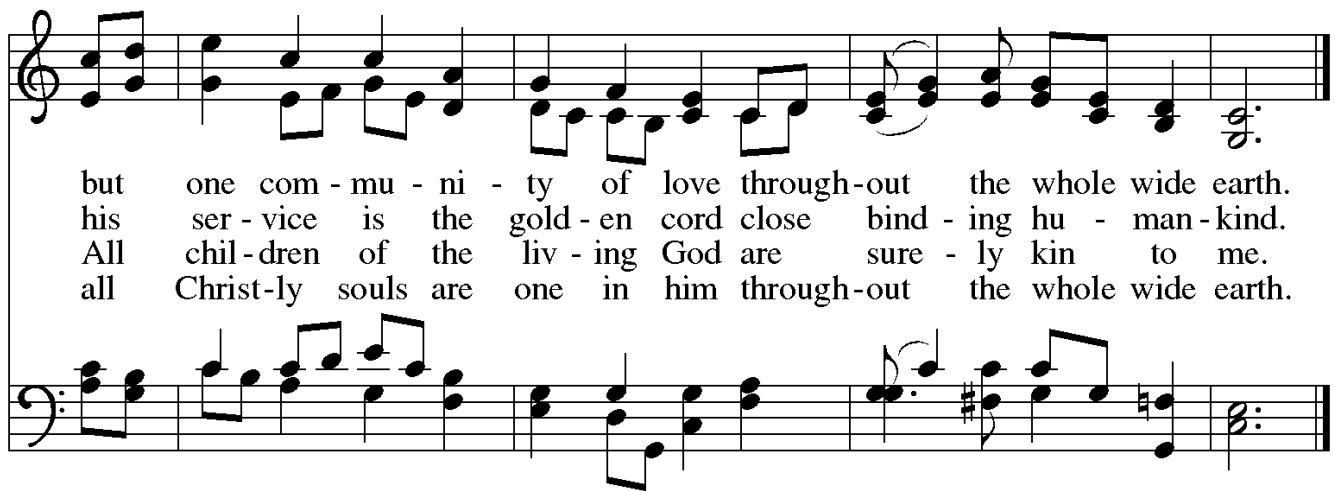
Rich Weingartner

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

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,
God of justice and accompaniment,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You made us all in your image;
in the Spirit of abounding love and creativity you formed us.
You sent us your Advocate
so that we can know how to advocate for our beloveds
as you strengthen us to love and uphold one another.
And so, with 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, HOLY

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our creator in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kin-dom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom,
the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all.

COMMUNION

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

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

Siblings in Christ, let us go out into the world in peace;
take up the pledge to be an advocate for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and all
those in need of inclusion and advocacy,
and leave this space with a fervent passion for welcome.

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we go in peace to serve the Creator.
Seek God's boundless diversity in all you see,
and know you are made in God's image!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Trumpet Voluntary in D Major"

John Bennett

Year to Date January – December 30, 2021

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Income | \$ 285,472 |
| Expenses | <u>\$ 288,230</u> |
| Net Income (Loss) | \$ (2,758) |

01/16/22

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 1,360.00 |
| Memorials | \$ 300.00 |
| Stapp Appreciation | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Caring Committee | <u>\$ 50.00</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ 2,710.00 |
| Vanco | |
| General Operating | <u>\$ 707.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 3,417.00 |

01/23/22

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 13,970.00 |
| Building Rental | \$ 50.00 |
| Parish House | <u>\$ 804.16</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ 14,824.16 |
| Vanco | |
| General Operating | \$ 2,155.00 |
| Building | <u>\$ 25.00</u> |
| Total | \$ 17,004.16 |



Please join us for the Annual Meeting via Zoom at 11:00 A.M. following the worship service.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94157901824?pwd=cGZGSFAwNkZJZlFb1FScWZXamZFZz09>

Meeting ID: 941 5790 1824

Passcode: 947890