



“Welcome To The Celebration”

We are pleased that God has moved you to worship this morning.
May your soul be renewed through His Word and Spirit.

The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

8:30 and 11:15 am Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Charlotte, Michigan

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY

BE BLESSED AS YOU WORSHIP

May your soul be renewed through God's Word and Spirit.

We pray that everything you experience today would increase your faith, give you assurance of your salvation through Jesus, and renew you spiritually.

We also pray that every one of us would have a renewed or growing sense of God's design for life in this world.

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your bulletin)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form" and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please take a moment before worship to say a prayer.

A PRELUDE – “We Three Kings” (handbells)

OUR LORD AND GOD INSPIRES OUR PRAISE

A PRAYER OF INVITATION

OUR OPENING PRAISE - **LSB 430** - "My Song Is Love Unknown" - stanzas 1, 2, 7

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 Spirit,

**born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven . . .

and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

OUR GOD KNOWS OUR NEEDS AND HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OUR CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF FAITH AND PRAISE

Pastor: Our God, the Sovereign God, knows our greatest need – a relationship with Him. We are unworthy people – unworthy because we are sinners. And yet, the Bible clearly teaches that God loves us with His sacrificial and unconditional love. He has provided the rescue for us sinful people and wants us to be His people. Let's confess to God and to one another that we are sinners and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as God's people let's take refuge in His awesome love, seeking His forgiveness because Jesus died in our place.

All: O Lord, if You did not forgive, no one could stand in Your presence. But with You there is forgiveness. I therefore revere You. (Psalm 130:4) Almighty God, I am a sinful human being . . . with a sinful nature. I sin against You in my thoughts, words, and deeds. Yet Your word assures us that You are merciful . . . and withhold the punishment we deserve. In Your grace You have wonderfully washed away our sin . . . because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. You have given us spiritual life. Keep us on the path to everlasting life in Your presence. Amen.

Pastor: (the announcement of forgiveness)

OUR SONG OF PRAISE - "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine" - Best of the Best 24

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. O what a foretaste of glory divine –
heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

CHORUS

**This is my story, this is my song – praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song – praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Perfect submission – Christ on the cross. For my salvation He suffered loss –
gave up His life and gave up His throne,
purchased and won me, made me His own. (CHORUS)**

**Knowing forgiveness, now I'm at rest. I in my Savior am happy and blest –
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, trusting His love. (CHORUS)**

**Vict'ry o'er Satan, death, and the grave – O what a joy to know that I'm saved.
Claiming no merit – works of my own,
all glory, praise, be to God alone! (CHORUS)**

OUR PRAYERS OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITION

THE 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**

(sing)

**Lord, You are more precious than silver.
Lord, You are more precious than gold.
Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,
and nothing I desire compares with You.**

“Lord, You Are More Precious than Silver” – BoB 161

OUR GOD INSTRUCTS US THROUGH HIS WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - Psalm 119:10-16, 9

[O God] I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.
¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. ¹² Praise
be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. ¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws
that come from your mouth. ¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices
in great riches. ¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. ¹⁶ I delight
in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. ... ⁹ How can a young man keep his
way pure? By living according to your word.

Reader: The psalmist expresses high regard for God's word.
He teaches us to value God's word and to apply it.
Should we not do likewise?

**All: We should also value God's word and apply it to our lives.
Help us, Lord.**

THE EPISTLE READING - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were
wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.
²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the
weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this

world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are,²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Reader: The apostle Paul reminds us of God's awesome love and of all the tremendous blessings from that love: righteousness, holiness and redemption. Let's remember them and treasure them.

All: O Lord God, help us remember them and treasure them and also thank and praise You for them. Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING - John 1:1, 14; 3:16, 19-21 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ... [That Word coming into the world was Jesus. Thirty some years later Jesus told us about God's eternal intent regarding life.]¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Pastor: This is God's word for us. Let's pray.

**All: O Lord, enable us all to live with You in faith –
the faith into which we have been called through the gospel.
Enable us to live with You faithfully . . .
using all that we are and have . . . as You desire.
Enable us to boldly confess You, Jesus, with our lives . . .
through the zeal and power of the Holy Spirit . . .
to the glory of Your holy name – the Triune God. Amen**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A HYMN OF FAITH - **LSB 903** - "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made" - stanzas 1, 4-5

THE MESSAGE "From Invisible to Indispensable"

(a message for Life Sunday adapted from a message by Rev. Steven P. Carlson)

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S WORD AND GRACE

OUR PSALM AND SONG - Psalm 1

Pastor: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

**All: But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on His law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

All: Whatever he does prospers.

Pastor: Not so the wicked!

All: They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Pastor: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**All: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen**

A PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR OUR CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE WORDS OF JESUS' INSTITUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the same night when He was betrayed, took bread,
and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for You. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way He also took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks,
He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of You; this is my blood of the new
covenant, which is shed for You for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as
You drink it in remembrance of me."

OUR PRAYER IN SONG - "Come, Risen Lord" - (tune LSB 764) text author: G. W. Briggs (1931)

**Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest.
No, let us be Your guests; the feast is Yours.
You at Your table here are manifest
in Your own Sacrament of bread and wine.**

**We meet as one Your body to partake –
one Church united in communion blest.
One Name we bear; one Bread of Life we break
with all Your saints on earth and saints at rest.**

We meet, as in that upper room they met.

You're at the table, blessing, yet You say:

"This is my blood; my blood I given for You."

Faith still receives the cup as from Your hand.

One with each other 'cause we're one in You.

You are our Savior and our living Head.

Now open wide our eyes that we may view

our living Savior in this wine and bread.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

During the distribution, please join in singing these hymns of worship.

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" - LSB 940

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - LSB 770

A POST COMMUNION PRAYER

GOD SENDS US OUT TO BE A BLESSING

REMINDERS OF THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE FROM THE TRIUNE GOD

*In thanksgiving to our God for His salvation we gladly share the resources
He has given us to share His word and love in our midst and around the world.
Please also put your "Connection Form" into the offering basket to document your
participation in worship and the Lord's Supper and to share your prayer requests.*

OUR CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG - **LSB 698** - "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

THE BENEDICTION

Silent Prayer
Announcements

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**We are people of God, graciously saved by God through the
sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.**

OUR JANUARY BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)

**Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves
from everything that contaminates body and spirit,
perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**

Credits

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WAYS TO SUPPORT LIFE

- a Pray! Pray for our nation that a respect for life at all stages and conditions would be restored.
- b Participate in organizations which provide a safe haven for women who have no support or little support throughout their pregnancies.
- c Counsel women who are struggling with unwanted pregnancies.
- d Personally help families who are struggling with issues of life.
- e Be a vocal advocate for life.
- f Be an example and a mentor. Teach and model the God-given value of life to your children and grandchildren.
- g Be informed! The issues are complicated, but organizations like Lutherans for Life (LFL) provide insight and instruction. See www.lutheransforlife.org or the Michigan chapter at LFLMI.org.
- h Be active in a local Lutherans for Life (LFL) chapter or become an LFL Life Ministry Coordinator right here at First.
- i At the other end of the life spectrum, volunteer to help a hospice program.

A PRAYER FOR US IN THIS CONGREGATION

O God, we are Your people, graciously saved by You through the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit. In relationship with You as Your family, help us always recognize Your love for us. By Your word and Spirit in us help us in faith to seek You whole-heartedly, worship and commune faithfully, absorb Your word, pray to You, and obey You. In relationship to others both inside and outside Your family, as people enlightened by Your Holy Spirit to the atoning work of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, help us encourage, serve, and care for others. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, help us evangelize, witness, and share with a desire to make all people disciples of Jesus. Amen