



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025 10:30 AM

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Aria"

Paul Manz

(Indicates that all are invited to stand)*

***CALL TO WORSHIP (1)**

One: God has abundantly cast God's seeds of love and hope upon us.

All: May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of hope and peace.

One: Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

All: Let us sing songs of praise to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN “Sing Praise to God” #22 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!

Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!

Gladsome rejoice—organ and trumpet and voice—joining God’s great congregation.

Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,

Who, as on eagle’s wings, saves us from sinful dejection.

Have you observed, how we are always preserved by God’s parental affection?

Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.

Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.

Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:

strength that would touch and caress us.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

Gracious God, forgive us when we doubt your mercy and your love.

We are often so caught up in getting everything that we want that we have trouble remembering it is in the waiting that we might hear your voice.

It is difficult for us to believe that we can be fruitful, good soil for your words and work.

Slow us down, God. Remind us again of your mercy and your love; for we offer this in Jesus’ name. *(moment of silent confession)*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News! God will never stop showering us with God’s love—
all the time, everywhere, and for everyone.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: “Sing Praise to God” v.4

Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.

All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.

God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight: amen, amen never ending.

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 4:1-9, 13-20 Pew Bible p.815

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “In the Bulb There is a Flower”#433 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There’s a dawn for every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past with come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

RESPONDING

We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY "Meditation on a theme by Orlando Gibbons" Healey Willan
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving).

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: #778 *New Century Hymnal*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God!

Eternal God, holy and mighty, it is our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, and to worship you in every place where your glory abides. You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. You made us in your image, and called us to be your people, but we turned from you, leaving sin and death to reign. Still you loved and sought us. In Christ your grace defeated death and opened the way to eternal life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voice with the faithful of every time and place:

Holy, holy, holy God, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your son and our risen Savior. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that we may be united with the living Christ and with all his people. Accept this our sacrifice of praise as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen:

Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Communion! Elements will be served by ushers, and you are invited to hold the elements until we commune together. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine. A tray of gluten-free wafers is available from usher in center aisle.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

* COMMISSIONING HYMN “You are Salt for the Earth, O People” #181

New Century Hymnal

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the reign of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the City of God!

***Refrain:* Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;**

Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God! *Refrain*

You are a seed of the Word, O people: bring forth the reign of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the City of God! *Refrain*

We are a blessed and a pilgrim people: bound for the reign of God!

Love our journey and love our homeland: love is the City of God! *Refrain*

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Prelude in Classical Style"

Gordon Young

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes: 1. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com

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February 2, 2025 Worship Leaders

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Paul Conner

Ushers: Members of the Dartball Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien,

Kathleen Mees

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