

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The community of Apostles Lutheran Church warmly welcomes you to worship today!

As Lutheran Christians, we proclaim that there is nothing, no human action that we can undertake, to earn God's love or the gift of God's grace. It is a gift promised and given to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh. It is a gift given to everyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or background. This Easter promise, this gift of grace, frees us from the fear of having to earn God's love and it moves us to simply try to love our neighbor as best we can. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others and proclaim that there is a place for you at Christ's table.

Welcome, celebrate this good news with us!

Pastor Peter Edwardsen

APOSTLES' LUTHERAN CHURCH
Service of Holy Communion
January 26, 2025
Third Sunday after Epiphany

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life
C: *Amen.*

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of baptismal mercy, we live anew as beloved children of God. *Amen.*

Gloria

(#854 ELW verse 1)

*Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r, wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
be to the Lamb who our battle has won, whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the
throne;
whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne.*

Prayer of the Day

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together the prayer for today, January 26th, the Third Sunday after Epiphany

*Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the
nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and
inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever
hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Gathering Hymn: "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #886 ELW (5 verses)

*Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.*

*The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.*

*He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.*

*Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!
Please be seated.*

WORD

First Reading:

The First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.

He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is

holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19

19:1 The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

19:2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

19:3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

19:4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

19:5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

19:6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

19:9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

19:11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

19:12 *But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.*

19:13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

19:14 *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

R: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem: *"The Life of My Song" by Joseph M. Martin*
Performed by Phyllis Griffiths

Please rise, if you are able, for the Gospel reading.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia #174

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter.

All: Glory to you O Lord.

After the reading

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word, this is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *The Rev. Peter Edwardsen*

Please rise if you are able.

Hymn of the Day: "O God of Mercy, God of Light" #714 ELW

*O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.*

*You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;
oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.*

*Teach us the lesson Jesus taught: to feel for those his blood has bought,
that ev'ry deed and word and thought may work a work for you.*

*For all are kindred, both far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;
grant us the will, and grace provide, to love them all in you.*

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in that joyful baptismal promise, we celebrate and confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers and Concerns of the Community

“Come Bring Your Burdens to God” *South African Traditional*
Come, bring your burdens to God. Come, bring your burdens to God.
Come, bring your burdens to God. For Jesus will never say no. (sing twice)

D: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation

A brief silence.

The Deacon, pastor, or worship leader continues with the prayers. Each petition ends;
D: God of grace, **All: Hear our prayer.**

The final petition ends;

D: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Offering

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to this feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

Please rise if you are able as the collection plates are presented at the table of the Lord.

Offertory music: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord” #184 ELW

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of
life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

Offertory prayer:

D: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **C: Amen**

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: 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 all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(ELW page 108)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

*Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*



Eucharistic Prayer:

P: 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.

Remembering, therefore his salutary command, his life giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to life as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer:

P: And now let us pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**All: 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.**

Lamb of God
(ELW page 112)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

*As sinners redeemed not by our own actions but by God's promise of grace alone
Lutherans practice an open table: Christ invites all to the table. All who desire to receive
communion are welcome. Christ turns no one away.*

*Ushers will direct you when to approach the altar rail. Communion trays contain empty
cups for wine, as well as filled cups of grape juice in the center for those who cannot
drink wine. If you have a gluten sensitivity, please tell the pastor as he approaches with
the bread and he will offer you to take from the tray of gluten-free wafers.*

*If you are unable to approach the rail and would like to receive communion in your seat,
please let the ushers know.*

Communion Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #800 ELW

*Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,*

and make me love you as I ought to love.

*I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.*

*Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you, and, oh, let me find!*

*Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.*

After all have received communion the community stands and sings three times:

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.*

Table Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep in you in his grace, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Canticle: “Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise” #207 ELW

*Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy*

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **C: Amen.**

THE SENDING

Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "The Spirit Sends us Forth to Serve" #551 ELW (4 Verses)

*The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.*

*We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.*

*We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed and, all our days,
to cherish life, and do the loving deed.*

*Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

1/29 Gene & Susan Abel



Please keep in prayer...

. . . all communities suffering and mourning due to natural disasters.

. . . all communities and peoples that suffer from intolerance, injustice, racism, and violence.

. . . all areas of the world living under threat of violence and war.

We stand with those communities and organizations, faith-based and secular, that work towards healing, justice, and peace.

We pray that the Holy Spirit brings comfort to those who mourn, strength to those who advocate for change, and peace to those who struggle to make sense of the senseless.

God's purpose for the church is to witness to God's grace, forgiveness, compassion, and justice.

We fulfill this promise by serving and caring for your local and global communities.



The flowers on the altar are given by Gene & Susan



Abel

in Celebration of their 14th Wedding Anniversary.

Today's Altar Volunteers:

Stephanie M.,

***Deacon: Tracy D., Acolyte: Nicole G.,
Greeter: Sylvia D., & Usher:***

Readers: Eleanor B., Tracy D.

Set Up: Tracy D., & Clean Up: Judy M.

February 2nd Altar Volunteers:

Deacon: Gene A., Acolyte: Nicole G.,

Greeter: Joan T., & Usher: Susan A.,

Readers: Sandy P., Nicole G., Gene A.,

Set Up: Thea M., & Clean Up: Susan A.,

**The "Soft Pretzel Sale" is today!! Soft pretzels will be available
for purchase after the service.**

*****The 2024 Tax Statements are available in the Narthex. *****

**February 2nd, next Sunday, is the last week to bring in items that
will be donated to a local animal shelter. Some specific items**

needed are flat sheets (not fitted), blankets, Kong toys, and wet or dry Hills Science Diet pet food. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

February 3rd: Council Meeting, 6:30pm.

February 6th: Grief Share, 10:30am.

Food Closet Dates for February are the 13th & the 27th; both are 1-3pm.

December 2024 Financial Update

Year to Date Giving: \$113,720.96

Year to Date Expenses: \$144,003.61

Year to Date Shortfall: -\$30,282.65

Money Market/CD Balance: \$82,737.50

(For more information, please see Gene Abel or Joan Tartamosa)

(please see the other side for more announcements)

The 2025 Offering Envelopes are now available in the Narthex.

Please collect your containers and serving platters that are in the Kitchen! Thank you!

Altar Flower Dedications:

******Please use the forms that are located next to the flower chart in the Narthex and return them to the church office at least one week before the date(s) you have chosen. This is to ensure that your dedication will appear in the bulletin. Thank you! ******

The January-March “Word in Season” booklets are now available in the vestibule.

There is now a “Memorial Wall” in the Narthex; if you would like, you can place a cross on the wall either in Honor of Loved ones who are no longer here, or to Memorialize an event. (We ask, if possible, that you include a command hook with the cross that you would like to place on the wall.)

If you wish to bring snacks for the Sunday Coffee Fellowship, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

We are collecting the following: Linens--towels, sheets, and blankets. Medical supplies-- Alcohol wipes, infusion set-ups, tubing, syringes, etc. Also, dog food, empty ink cartridges of all types, and pull tabs from aluminum cans for dialysis credits.

**The Vanco system for online giving can be found on the
Apostles' website.
Any questions, please see Frank or Nick. Thank you.**