

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Epiphany 3 - January 23, 2022

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #84 - *“Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun”*

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made
And endless praises crown his head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Praise his great love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Worship and honor to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant

us forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-6

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord to display his beauty. Then they will rebuild ancient ruins. They will raise up what was formerly devastated, and they will renew ruined cities, which have been devastated for generations. Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock, and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers. You will be called the Lord's priests. You will be named ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and you will boast about their riches. (EHV)

Psalm 19

Refrain: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**The heavens declare the glo'ry of God;
The skies proclaim the work 'of his hands**

**Their voice goes out into 'all the earth,
Their words to the ends 'of the world.**

Refrain: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**The law of the LORD is ‘perfect,
Giving joy ‘to the heart.**

**The commands of the LORD are ‘radiant,
Giving light ‘to the eyes.**

**They are more pre’cious than gold;
They are sweeter than ‘honey.**

**By them is your ‘servant taught;
In keeping them there is ‘great reward.**

Refrain: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation ‘of my heart
Be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Re’deemer.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,
As it was in the be’ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

Refrain: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 26-27

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we all were baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free people, and we were all caused to drink one Spirit. Furthermore, the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body,” it does not on that account cease to be part of the body. If the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body,” it does not on that account cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has arranged the members in the body, each and every one of them, as he desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need for you,” or again the head to the feet, “I have no need for you.” So if one

member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. You are the body of Christ, and individually you are members of it. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through all the surrounding area. He was teaching in their synagogues and being honored by everyone. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (EHV)

The Apostles' Creed:

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn #422 - "Jesus, Lead Us On"

**Jesus, lead us on till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,**

**We will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand to our fatherland.**

**If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us,
For through many a woe to our home we go.**

**When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.**

**Jesus, still lead on till our rest is won.
Heav’nly Leader, still direct us;
Still support, console, protect us
Till we safely stand in our fatherland.**

**The Sermon: Luke 4:14-21
 “Jesus, Lead Us On”**

The **title** of the hymn which we just sang, **Jesus Lead Us On**, serves as the **theme** for today’s sermon. Our text today shows us that Jesus is uniquely **qualified** to **Lead Us On** into the days which still lie **ahead** for us in the future. The text tells us about a **visit** which Jesus made to the synagogue in **Nazareth** on a particular **Sabbath** day. It all started out as a pretty **normal** Sabbath. People came to the synagogue to **worship**, as they usually did, and Jesus was no **exception**. It had been His **custom** to worship and study the Scriptures **regularly** already as a young boy, and it was a custom which He **continued** to observe throughout His lifetime.

When the time in the service came for a reading from the **prophets**, Jesus **stood up**, indicating that He wanted to do the reading that day. The synagogue rulers were **happy** to have Jesus participate. After all, in a very short time after He had left Nazareth, this hometown boy had made quite a **name** for Himself. News of His captivating **sermons** and powerful **miracles** had been making their way **back** to Nazareth, and the people were excited to hear what He was going to **say**, and what He was going to **do** for **them**. So Jesus was handed the scroll of the Prophet **Isaiah**. There was a hushed silence among the worshipers as Jesus **unrolled** the scroll, and began to read the words of our Old Testament lesson for today, where Isaiah wrote about the coming **Messiah** and His **work**. *“The Spirit of the Lord is*

*on me, because he anointed me to preach **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim **freedom** to the captives and **recovery of sight** to the blind, to **set free** those who are oppressed, and to **proclaim** the year of the Lord's **favor**."*

When Jesus finished reading, He handed the scroll back to the attendant, and **sat down**. That's **different** from what we would **expect**, but it was the custom in **those** days for the teacher to **read** the text while **standing**, and then to **sit down** to **expound** on the reading. So, every eye and every ear was focused on Jesus, as the congregation anxiously **anticipated** what this popular young rabbi was going to **say** - and they were **not** disappointed. Jesus simply said, "***Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.***" Jesus was telling His fellow worshipers that **He** is the one that Isaiah had **written** about - that He had been **commissioned**, **sent**, and **anointed** by the Holy Spirit, to be the **hope** of Israel, and the **Savior** of all people. The people who had gathered there couldn't miss the point, and they were **astonished**. Jesus was saying that the prophecies about the Messiah were no longer something for just **reading** about and looking **forward** to. But rather, on that very **day** those prophecies had **come alive**, and had reached their **fulfillment** in **Jesus Himself**.

That was **a lot** for the people to take in, and it's **still** a lot for **us**, and for the people of our world **today** to take in. But what a marvelous **revelation!** The long-awaited Messiah **has come**. The **Savior** of the **world** is **here**. This is the same Jesus whom we ask to **Lead Us On** through the days which lie ahead. And what a **capable** and **dependable** leader He **is**. Jesus is the one who came down from **heaven** to reveal the Father's loving **plans** for us - the one on whom the **Holy Spirit** descended at the time of His **baptism** - to **equip** Him in His human nature for His work of redemption. Jesus is **uniquely qualified** to **Lead Us On** throughout the days of our life. No one else always has our **best** interests in mind, and we can trust Him **completely** to safely **Lead Us On** to our home in **heaven**.

But let's get back to our **text**. The words of the Prophet Isaiah which Jesus read that day concerning the promised **Messiah** offer a beautiful summary of the **ministry** and **message** of Jesus, starting with proclaiming the **Good News** to the **poor**. That **doesn't** refer to those who are poor in terms of **worldly** possessions, but rather those who are poor in **spirit** - those who know they have **nothing** to offer God in order to turn **away** from them His **anger** because of their **sins**. They know and confess that they are **sinful** - that **nothing good** dwells in them - and that their only **hope** is to plead for God's **mercy**. And God doesn't let them **down**. He says, "***This is the person I will watch over: the one who is afflicted and whose spirit is crushed, the one who trembles at my word.***" Jesus brings the comfort of

forgiveness to those who are **poor** in spirit, and He makes us **rich** with the treasures of His **grace**. The Apostle Paul said it beautifully in his second letter to the Corinthians, *“For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was **rich**, yet for your sakes he became **poor**, so that through his **poverty** you might become **rich**.”*

The second phrase in Isaiah’s description of the Messiah also points to the work of Jesus, our **leader** - *“to proclaim **freedom** to the **captives**.”* Here again there’s a **spiritual** meaning. Jesus came to proclaim **freedom** to those who were held captive by **sin**, **death**, and **Satan**. He paid the **penalty** for all of our sins with His **death** on the cross. And His **resurrection** from the dead **assures** us that we have been **set free** from those sins, and from the **fear** of condemnation. **Satan’s** power has been **broken** and **death** has been **defeated**. So, we’re free to **serve God** as citizens of His kingdom.

Isaiah goes on to tell us that Jesus came to bring *“recovery of **sight** to the **blind**,”* and He had **that** phrase **doubly** covered. Not only did Jesus provide **sight** to people who had been physically **born blind**, but He also provided the **light** of His **Word** to those who were groping around in the darkness of **unbelief** and **spiritual blindness**.

Then we’re told that Jesus also came *“to **set free** those who are **oppressed**.”* **Oppression** can come to us in **many** different ways. It can certainly come from people who **oppose** God and His Word, but it can also come from the **pain** that **sin** has brought into the world - from the **sorrow** that **death** brings when it takes a loved one away from us - from the **tears** caused by disobedient **children** or quarreling **parents** - and even from the **shame** that we bring on **ourselves** when we choose to live **contrary** to what **God** wants for us. To those who are **oppressed** Jesus offers the invitation, *“Come to **me** all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**.”*

These are the **blessings** which Jesus brings to all those who **follow** Him in **faith**. As our **leader**, He graciously offers them to us **freely** and without **cost** to bring **joy**, **peace**, **comfort**, and **hope** to everyone who **follows** Him. They are blessings which **we** receive every time we hear the **Gospel**.

And finally, with Jesus as our **leader**, we are assured that He has come *“To **proclaim** the year of the Lord’s **favor**.”* God had told His people in Old Testament times, that every **50th** year was to be a year of **jubilee** - a time in which all **slaves** would be set **free**, all **prisoners** would be **released**, all **debts** would be **cancelled**,

and all **property** would be **returned** to its original owners. It would be a year of the Lord's **favor**, showing God's great **love** for His people, and His fervent **desire** that they would experience His **blessings**. It was truly a time of **joy** and **celebration** for all Israel. Jesus told the worshipers at the synagogue in Nazareth that **He** had come to **usher in** a year like that - a **new** time - a time in which God would provide **salvation** for **everyone** through **Him**.

That year of the Lord's **favor** is also ours **today** in Jesus - not just the year 2022, but an entire **era** that will continue until the Last Day. The same Jesus who went to the synagogue in **Nazareth** and said, "*Today this Scripture is **fulfilled** in your hearing,*" also comes to **us** with the same message. We can **trust** Him and His words **completely**, because we actually know Jesus even **better** than the people of His **hometown** knew Him. We have the **full** revelation of Jesus in the words of the four **Gospels**. We **know** Jesus as the one who lived a **perfect life** for us - who **gave** that perfect life to **us** through His **death** - and who **conquered** death and the grave through His **resurrection** on the third day. We **know** Jesus as the one who ascended into **heaven** - to rule with might and majesty over **all things** in heaven and on earth - who rules in our **hearts** by **faith** - and who guides and shapes all the events of this **world** for our **benefit**.

With Jesus as our **leader**, the future can only be **bright**, because Jesus promises to guide us through **everything** that comes into our lives. As we wisely **follow** Him in faith, we can **face** everything because we have God's promise, "*Though the mountains be **shaken** and the hills be **removed**, yet my unfailing love for you will **not** be shaken nor my covenant of **peace** be **removed**.*" So, as we **boldly** forge ahead into the future, may our desire always be - **Jesus, Lead Us On. Amen.**

Prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to seek and to save the **lost**. It's **true** that You, God's own **Son**, came here to **suffer** and **die** to redeem us **sinners**. O Savior, fill our hearts with such firm **reliance** in You that we will be prepared at **all** times, should **trouble** or **death** overtake us. May we successfully endure any **trials** that may test us. In **life** and **death**, in **prosperity** and **diversity**, in **good** times and in **bad**, draw our hearts closer to **You**. Whatever our station in life, help us to glorify **You** by true **faith**; and patient, godly **living**.

You are the God who **governs** all things. In Your hand alone lies all **peace** and **harmony**. Therefore, we ask You to bless our Quarterly Congregation Meeting

today. Help our voting members to understand the great **privilege** and **responsibility** which belongs to them. Let there be no **divisions** among us, so we may faithfully carry out our purpose as a congregation - to grow in our **own** faith, and to lift high the cross of **Jesus**, so that many **others** will learn of **their** salvation. Blessed Jesus, give us faith to trust that You are our **Savior** from sin; and our **Lord**, who has all power in heaven and earth. Enable us to always be **confident** that You will **hear** and **answer** us. Finally, make us partakers of Your glory in **heaven**. Amen.

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.**

Hymn #85 - "O God from God, O Light from Light"

**O God from God, O Light from Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings,
To you in heaven's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, Amen.**

**Deep in the prophets' sacred page,
Grand in the poets' winged word,
Slowly, in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"**

**Sung by heav'n's hosts in splendor bright,
Re-echoed now, "Good will!" Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death of pain mid hate and scorn -
These all are past, and now above
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang the angel hosts again.
Lift up your heads - your King awaits.
We lift them up, Amen, Amen.**

**Sing to the Lord a mighty song;
Sing to his name, his glories tell!
Sing, heav'nly hosts, your praise prolong,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain!
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb enthroned to reign,
Glory and pow'r! Amen, Amen.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn #332 - "On What Has Now Been Sown"

**On what has now been sown
Your blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is yours alone
To make it spring and grow.**

**O Lord, in grace the harvest raise
And you alone shall have the praise!**

**To you our wants are known;
From you are all our pow'rs.
Accept what is your own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
And to your Word a blessing give.**

**Oh, grant that each of us
Now met before you here
May meet together thus
When you and yours appear
And follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**