

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion **is** a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Opening Hymn

In His Temple Now Behold Him

LSB 519

Confession and Absolution

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Service of the Word

Introit

P: Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

C: The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

P: O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart;

C: you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

ALL: 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.

P: Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Gloria in Excelsis

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Salutation and Collect of the Day

Page 205

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

1 Samuel 1:21-28

Gradual

ALL: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! Amen.

Epistle

Hebrews 2:14-18

Alleluia and Verse

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Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-32

Nicene Creed

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Hymn of the Day

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

Sermon Theme

"When We are Amazed at the Word"

Text

Luke 4:21-32

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Everlasting God, we remember how Simeon faithfully trusted Your promise that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Grant us the same trust in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, that having received His body and blood and beholding Him by faith, we would be prepared for the day we meet Him face to face. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty God, in the depth of love for creation, You brought Your Son to the temple and placed Him in the hands of blessed St. Simeon. Abide with those placed in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that their hands would be ever ready to deliver Your gifts to Your people and their lips bold to speak Your Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Father, You placed Your Son into the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes, that they would be places where truth is taught and confessed. Like Joseph took Mary to be his wife, make all husbands courageous and compassionate in their love for their wives. As Mary submitted to Joseph, grant all wives grace for respectful submission to their husbands. Bless the work of parents as they instruct their children in Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Ruler of the nations, bless those placed in authority over us. Grant that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind. Look favorably on our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, as Your Son has become our faithful High Priest, making propitiation for the sins of all people, hear His intercession for His Bride, the Church. Grant that the suffering, sick and sorrowful would be blessed by Your loving visitation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father of lasting peace, show mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 208

Sanctus Page 208

Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 209

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei Page 210

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

<i>My Faith Looks Up to Thee</i>	LSB 702
<i>See Where You May to Find a Way</i>	LSB 557
<i>How Wide the Love of Christ</i>	LSB 535

Nunc Dimittis	<i>Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace</i>	LSB 937
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Post-Communion Collect	Page 212
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Benedicamus & Benediction	Page 212
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Closing Hymn	<i>Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me</i>	LSB 722
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Announcements**Postlude**

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