

# Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** *“On Eagle’s Wings”* - arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## **Welcome**

**Gathering Hymn:** *“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”* ELW #617

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge,

**we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another**

**and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of + Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.

You are God’s beloved.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -  
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
A - men, a - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



## First Reading - Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn: "When a Star is Shining" ACS #915

Memorial Choir sings verses, All sing refrain



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39

The Gospel according to Mark

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came

out to do.”<sup>39</sup> And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW #773**

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" in 3/4 time, featuring a piano accompaniment and vocal lines. The score is divided into three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

**System 1:**

Pre-cious Lord take my hand, Lead me on, help me stand. I am  
When my way dark - ness ap - pears and the Lord, night draws near, - When my  
When the

**System 2:**

5  
tired, I am weak, I am worn. Thro' the storm, thro' the night, Lead me  
life is al - most gone. Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my  
day is past and gone, At the riv - er I stand, guide my

**System 3:**

11  
on to the light. Take my hand, pre-cious Lord; lead me home.  
hand lest I fall. feet, hold my hand.

## **Council Installation**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

**Music Voluntary:** *“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”* - Russell Mauldin  
*Memorial Choir*

## **Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

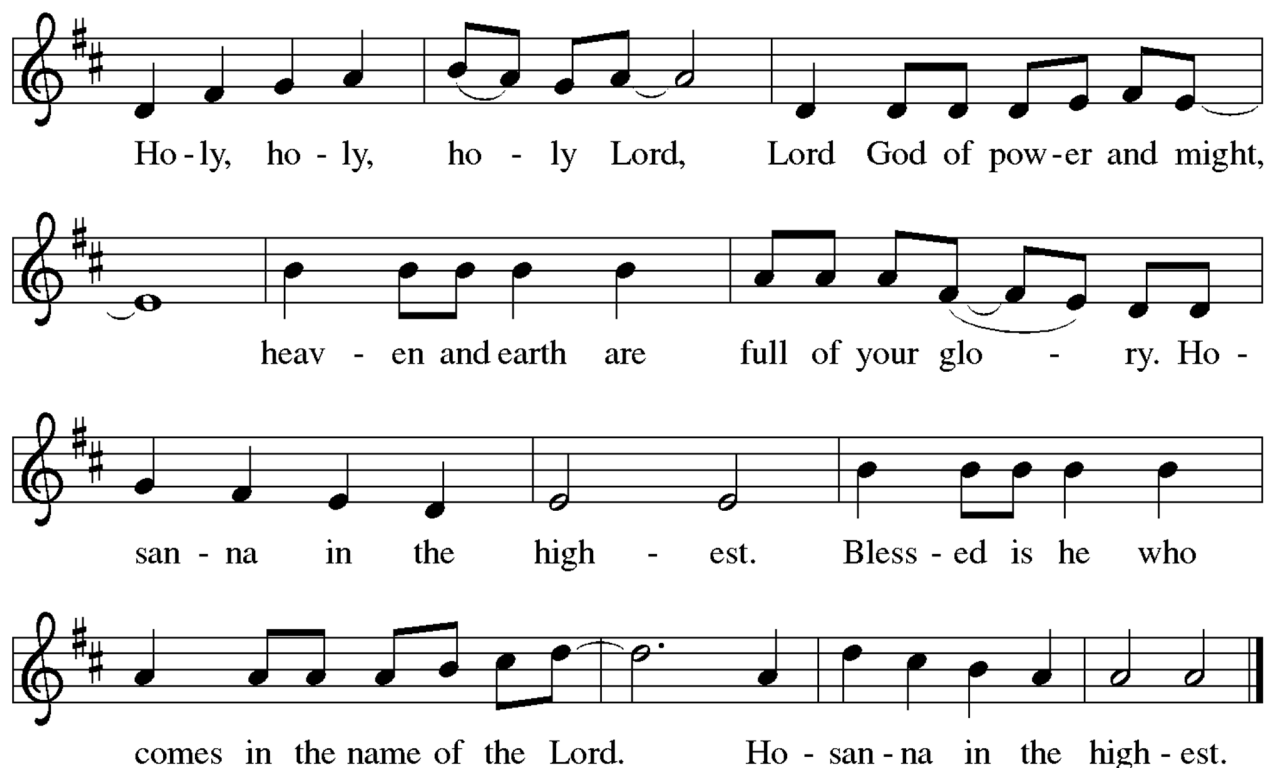
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### 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.

## Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## Communion Hymns

*"Lamb of God"* - ELW Setting 6

*"On Eagle's Wings"* - ELW #787

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Prayer after Communion

Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Announcements

### Blessing

God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
+ bless you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "Cast Out, O Christ" ACS #1016



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the  
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are  
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you  
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that  
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that  
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -  
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you  
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,  
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.  
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.  
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.  
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.  
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" - Max Drischner

*Lois Theesfield, organ*

*"Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,*

***And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.***

*Have you not seen - all that is needful has been*

*Sent by his gracious ordaining."*



## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep the family of +Bob Klopping in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Ernie Ruhde in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Dick Settle in your prayers following his death*

*Please keep the family of +Connie Krupp in your prayers  
following her death*

*Please keep the family of +Lynn Harris in your prayers  
following his death*

*Please keep Karen Blank and family in your prayers  
following the death of Karen's husband, +Don Blank*

*Please keep Larry & Deb Parker and family in your prayers  
following the death of Larry's brother, +Ron Parker*

Troy Vincent  
Kati Stieler  
*sister-in-law of Dan Stieler*

Johann Thiel

Paul Johnson

Mike Neal

Kathy Lynn Johnson

Christina King

Sherry Kluever

Kim Elliott

Pr. Marcia Kisner

Marlene Waddell  
*friend of Virginia Palmisano-  
Goettsch*

Sandy Muesburger  
*friend of Virginia Palmisano-  
Goettsch*

John Bass  
*son-in-law of Ron & Gloria  
Jacobson*

Carol Vincent

Cassie Harrell

Jean Smith

Ellie Lynch

Sierra Parr  
*cousin of Kim Stieler*

Janet Jacques

Easton Farrington

Janice Hartz

Jackie Byers  
*daughter of Shellie Black*

Donna See

Norma Dannan  
*friend of Betty Runge*

Jami Tharp  
Fred Samuelson  
Jaylee Bartleson  
Sheila Collingwood  
*mother of Lyndsey  
De Vos*

Judy Coverdale

George Forsyth

Janeen Driscoll

Julie Sutherland

Jan Cook

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

## Announcements

### **TONIGHT: Community BINGO & Nachos Night February 4**

Join us for BINGO and nachos tonight from 5:30—7:00 PM. This is a fun event for Memorial and the community (all ages, kids and adults welcome!), so please invite your friends! Free-will donations will go to the Good Samaritan Fund. Please note that children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

### **Calling all Prayer Warriors**

Memorial is developing a Prayer Team and is looking for individuals that would like to commit to praying for prayer requests as they arise. Prayer requests will be shared with the group primarily through email. If you would be interested in serving in this way please contact Pastor Kathleen.

### **Following the way of Jesus: A Lenten Holy Land journey | Sumud**

Join us on Sundays during Lent for weekly videos featuring reflections from Palestinian pastors and leaders on the theology of Sumud and its connections to the way of Jesus as a way of justice for all people of the Holy Land. You are invited to explore the Holy Land virtually with us after Sunday worship services in the coming weeks. You can view a promotional trailer for the series by using the QR code or by going to the link listed here:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YssbcGD1cU4>

### **Thank you for your generous gifts through our Generous Gifts Tree!**

We would like to express a huge thank you to everyone who made extra donations this past November and December through the Generous Gifts Tree in the Narthex! In the fourth quarter of 2023, the General Fund had an approximate \$28,000 shortage in income vs expenses. Your generous gifts helped us to end the year with a General Fund surplus of approximately \$4,000. This is an amazing difference and helped us end the year well! THANK YOU!

### **Donations Needed for Crisis in Middle East**

A word from our wider church body: *“Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes.*

*Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters,*

*whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for “Middle East Crisis” will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.”*

**Please go here to donate: <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>**

## **A Special Note Regarding Tithe.ly Fees**

We so appreciate all that give using the online/mobile giving platform Tithe.ly! If you haven't already, please consider including Tithe.ly processing fees as part of your one-time and recurring gifts. To do this, simply check the “Cover Fees” box when setting up your gift. If you have already set up a recurring gift and would like to start including the fees, you'll need to delete this gift and set it up again with “Cover Fees” checked.

## **Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects**

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as “A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place” (heating and cooling) and “Drive for the Drive” (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

## **Online Giving with Tithe.ly**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know?* In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!**



## *Save the Date*

### **Community BINGO and Nachos Night**

When: Sunday, February 4, 5:30—7:00 PM

Where: MLC Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday Night Live**

When: Wednesday, February 7, 6:30-7:30 PM

### **Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper (each Wednesday during Lent)**

When: Wednesday, February 14, supper at 6:00 PM followed by worship at 7:00 PM

### **Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper (each Wednesday during Lent)**

When: Wednesday, February 21, supper at 6:00 PM followed by worship at 7:00 PM

### **Snow Tubing with Memorial**

When: Friday, February 23

Where: Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone

### **Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper (each Wednesday during Lent)**

When: Wednesday, February 28, supper at 6:00 PM followed by worship at 7:00 PM

### **Memorial Lutheran Church**

701 11th Street, Nevada, IA 50201

@memluthnevada



Memorial Lutheran

Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry

Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement

Mike Coverdale, Custodian