



*Empowered by God's Hope and Love, we can reach, teach, and serve all.*

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## **January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Being Bethany in a Jerusalem World**

#### Facts About Bethany

- Bethany was full of palm trees, almond trees, olive trees, pomegranate trees, and fig trees. The shade of those trees offered a welcome retreat for tired and wearied travelers.
- During the six days preceding His crucifixion, Jesus visited Jerusalem in the daytime and retreated to Bethany to spend the night. He spent the last six nights of His earthly life in Bethany, where he found refuge, repose, safety, acceptance, and peace.

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**  
Give peace in all the world;  
**for only in you can we live in safety.**  
Keep the nations under your care,  
**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
**your saving health among all nations.**  
Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come before you.**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Holy One, source of our renewal,  
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have not practiced your righteousness.  
Our hearts have turned away from you.  
For the sake of the world you so love,  
forgive us,  
that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn ELW #266 "All Earth is Hopeful"**

### **THE GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **THE KYRIE SUNG ELW # 147 (Sunday)**

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

God our creator, you have given us work to do and call us to use our talents for the good of all. Guide us as we work, and teach us to live in the Spirit who made us your sons and daughters, in the love that made us sisters and brothers, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

1Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

2Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

3"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

5O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

6“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

7Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

### **Psalm: Psalm 15**

*Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)*

L: Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**C: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**C: In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

L: They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

**Gospel Acclamation Vs. 1**  
**I've heard about this baby boy**  
**Who's come to earth to bring us joy**  
**And I just want to sing this song to you**  
**It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth**  
**The minor fall, the major lift**  
**With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah**  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke the tenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

**L:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn ELW #773** "*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*"

**Affirmation of Christian Vocation**

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling. Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever.

**Amen.**

People of God, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 of Intercession**

Each petition is concluded with the words, God of grace:

The congregation responds: **hear our prayer.**

L: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,  
send your Holy Spirit upon your servants,  
drive away all sickness of body and spirit;  
make whole that which is broken;  
deliver *them* from the power of evil;  
and preserve *them* in true faith,  
to share in the power of Christ's resurrection  
and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.

*Response:* **Amen.**

L: Let us pray.

Living God, grant comfort in suffering to all your servants. When they are afraid,  
give *them* courage; when afflicted, give *them* patience; when dejected, give *them* hope; and  
when alone, assure *them* of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our  
Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

L: Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow  
and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given  
to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **Offering Prayer**

God of abundance:  
you have set before us a plentiful harvest.  
As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,  
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,  
in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*Emmanuel is grateful for ALL of your gifts of tithes and offerings. If you are new to Emmanuel and would like to offer a financial gift, these can be placed in the brown box located on the table next to Door A. Thank you for sharing your gifts.*

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

### **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**

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.  
Come to the banquet.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Life-giving God,  
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds  
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,  
both friend and stranger,  
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## HYMN ELW # 282 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

### Volunteer Recognition Litany

L: The body of Christ is made up of many members.

**C: Not all have the same function.**

L: We are blessed with many members who care for the functioning of the body of Christ at Emmanuel Lutheran.

**C: We thank God for them.**

L: They give of their time and talents.

**C: Without their efforts and gifts we could not be all God calls us to be.**

L: Paul writes of the Macedonian Christians who wanted to share in ministry: “They gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us.” (2 Cor. 8:5)

**C: Ministry flows from a commitment to serve the Lord.**

L: By the will of God our volunteers are committed to the Lord and to us. God has worked mightily through them to bless us.

**C: We thank God for them.**

L: Our volunteers put flesh and bone on our call to be the body of Christ in the world.

**C: They add muscle to our calling to be Christ to one another.**

L: Sunday school and vacation Bible school teachers, confirmation and youth leaders, mentors and nursery helpers;

**C: musicians, readers, assisting ministers, ushers, leaders of prayer, communion assistants, acolytes;**

L: mission-project organizers, stewardship coordinators, offering counters, special event planners;

**C: quilters, gardeners, artists, bakers, cooks;**

L: prayer chain participants, visitors to the hospitalized and homebound, those who prepare funeral lunches;

**C: ministers of hospitality of every kind;**

L: cleaners, bulletin assemblers, envelope stuffers, office helpers, and so many more:

**C: We thank God for you!**

### **Blessing**

The God of peace,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you, comfort you,

and show you the path of life

this day and always.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to Emmanuel!** If this is your first time at Worship with us, We are grateful for you and hope you will Worship with us again. Emmanuel has a *Family Room* sitting area located just off the sanctuary with couch seating and a television that shows a livestream of today's Worship. This area is for those who might want to calm down, get the wiggles out, or regain a sense of security before rejoining the group. Please feel welcomed and invited to enjoy this area. The *Family Room* can be reached by going through the doorway with the letter "B" above it.

*Christ in Our Home* devotionals and Parish Visitors are available at the church just outside the glass front door. If you need it mailed to you, please call the church office.

**Used Tennis Shoe Drive-** The park team is collecting tennis shoes, clean (no mud or manure please). Please tie the pair of shoes strings together or heavy rubber band them together. Please place in collection box in lobby. Thank you to Deb Maas for coordinating this fundraiser.

### **Thank You For Being A Friend" Women's Brunch, February 5**

Would you like to celebrate the women friendships in your life? Does cheesecake and Golden girls sound good? We are throwing a party and inviting all women to join us on **Sunday, February 5 at 11:45** (after 2nd service) in the clubroom for a Golden Girls themed brunch. Lyn Leisgang from Discount Embroidery will be here to bring craft materials to make cards and gifts for women we love. Cost is \$5. All women welcome. Please sign up to attend. Signup sheet is located on wooden standing cube by sanctuary entrance.

**"2022" Giving statements** can be picked up on the table under the church picture in the narthex.

**"2023" Envelopes** can be picked in the church office. If you do not have envelopes but would like envelopes please call the church office. Thank you.

**Epiphany is the season of light.** If you have a special candle that you would like to share, you are welcome to bring it to light the sanctuary. Please put your name on it.

Just a reminder that Thrivent dollars need to be designated by March.

**The Altar Circle Ministry Team** is encouraging contributions toward the Beautification Fund to provide enhancements to our church and monies toward new paraments and banners.

### **The staff email addresses are as follows**

office@seymourfaith.org  
sandy@seymourfaith.org  
brian@seymourfaith.org  
tanya@seymourfaith.org  
lynette@seymourfaith.org  
pastorty@seymourfaith.org  
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Have you noticed Emmanuel's **Wall of Teams (Together Everyone Achieves More)**? Want to learn more about the teams--please take a Ministry Booklet. Would you like to join a team--please contact the church office. Are you already serving on a team--please let Sandy in the church office know. How would you like to share your talents? What area of serving would bring you joy? Thank you for participating. Thank you for considering. Thank you for sharing.

**Next Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023**

8:00 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Faith Connections  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:45 AM Women's Event

**Monday, Feb. 6, 2023**

4:30 PM Park fund raising meeting

**Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023**

10:30 AM Exec. Park meeting  
6:00 PM Choir

**Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023**

5:30PM Meal  
6:00PM Faith Connections  
6:00PM Confirmation  
Worship

**Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023**

4:30 PM Bells  
6:30 PM Worship  
7:30 PM Book Study

**Friday, Feb. 10, 2023**

**Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023**

**Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023**

8:00 AM Worship  
9:15 AM Faith Connections  
10:30 AM Worship  
6-7:30 PM Refresh

Worship Schedule  
Emmanuel Lutheran  
[www.seymourfaith.org](http://www.seymourfaith.org)



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPOXOrmLEWCqdUmmDnq4UuA>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/emmanuelseymour>

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday, Jan. 29— 8:00am Worship and 10:30am Worship with Meal and Annual meeting to follow  
Thursday, Feb.2—6:30pm Worship  
Sunday, Feb. 5— 8:00am Worship and 10:30am Worship  
Thursday, Feb.9—6:30pm Worship  
Sunday, Feb. 12— 8:00am Worship and 10:30am  
Thursday, Feb.16—6:30pm Worship  
Sunday, Feb. 19— 8:00am Worship and 10:30am Worship, Bingo 2-6pm  
Ash Wednesday, Feb.22—1:30pm & 7:00pm Worship  
Sunday, Feb. 26— 8:00am Worship and 10:30am Worship