

THE LAMB OF GOD



February 4th, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.

Baptism of Our Lord—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

VERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement:

Vermont Lutheran Church is a congregation that CARES

Christians
Actively
Reaching out
Experiencing Christ
Spreading His Word



Guests

We hope that the service and fellowship is meaningful for you and that you join us again at another time. We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion today. If you receive Communion at your home church, you are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. For those of you with young children, there are busy bags available and a cry room in the loft area. We are prayerfully *seeking* our next full-time *pastor* called by God to lead our church. Thank you for visiting us!

Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN

"Hark! The Glad Sound!"

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GREETING

KYRIE

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CANTICLE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(sit)

CHOIR

In His Hand

CHILDREN'S TIME

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Wicked King Herod

FIRST READING: I Samuel 17:42-46 (*Reader*)

⁴²When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. ⁴³The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.” ⁴⁵But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head, and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-30 (*Reader*)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too

deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

C: Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL READING: John 1:19-31

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, “Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal.” ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he

was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

SERMON

The Baptism of Christ

Rev. Rebecca Clancy

(stand)

HYMN

“Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized”

#304

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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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.

(sit)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church (*especially*) be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, and all who long for respite or restoration (*especially*). God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints (*especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church*). God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

(stand)

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *may be placed in the plates in the back of the sanctuary when exiting.*

OFFERTORY

#186

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me in your free spirit.**

OFFERTORY 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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THE LORD'S PRAYER

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(sit)

DISTRIBUTION

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If you prefer grape juice at communion, please take a cup from the inner ring of the plate. Communion order: first four rows on the pulpit side and then alternating from organ side to pulpit side and finally loft.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

(stand)

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

HYMN

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

#671

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Messages

Assisting in the Service Today

Rev. Rebecca Clancy	Interim Pastor
Laura Winchip.....	Assistant Minister
Marguerite Parrell/Ingerid Kvam/Bruce Case.....	Organists
Greg & Patty Herrling, Dale & Bonnie Paddock.....	Ushers/Greeters
Bonnie Paddock.....	Reader
Greg & Patty Herrling, Dale & Bonnie Paddock.....	Hospitality
Joan Skalet & Debbie Krebs.....	Altar Duty
Adam Clancy.....	Acolyte
Krystal Lonsdale.....	Sunday School Teacher

Stewardship: Preliminary Year to Date through December 2023:

Contributions:	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 41,700	\$ 26,628	\$ 15,072
YTD	\$ 177,651	\$ 161,496	\$ 16,156
Expenses:	2023	2022	Change
Monthly	\$ 26,326	\$ 21,012	\$ 5,314
YTD	\$ 178,838	\$ 152,665	\$ 26,174

Last Sunday's Attendance: 64

Prayers

Prayer Chain Requests: If you know someone who would like prayers simply call or email and the prayer chain will be activated.

Jane Hanson

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To access our website scan



Password: CARES