



PLUM Worship

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Treasure in Heaven

January 29, 2023

3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

<https://youtu.be/5HLkRv7-np4>

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God knows what we need before we ask,

And gives us our daily bread.

We come before God with thanksgiving,

For all that God has done for us.

HYMN God Himself is Present

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H56oZ7HhFeY>

1. *God Himself is Present*
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple---All within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest reverence.
Him alone, God we own,
Him, our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever.
2. *God Himself is Present*
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
“Holy, holy holy”—Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Thine ear, To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Thy church now raises.
3. *O Thou Fount of blessing,*
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Thy merit.
Like the holy angels, Who behold Thy glory.
May I ceaselessly adore Thee.

*Let Thy will, Ever still,
Rule Thy church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Merciful God,

Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what he taught. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, we have not done to others as we would have done to ourselves. Shine a light on our hearts, that we might turn from the shadows of our sin and walk in your ways.

Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. By his abundant love, all your sins are forgiven, that you might walk in the light of Christ.

Amen.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, you invite us to come to you in prayer, and offer us a promise of your never-ending care. Give us the humility to ask only for what we need and to be grateful when we receive it. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Psalm 20:7

⁷Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:7-21, 25-34

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Readers: Jesus 1, Jesus 2

Jesus 1: “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Jesus 2: “Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but

rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Jesus 1: “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Jesus 2: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Jesus 1: ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?’

Jesus 2: Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Jesus 1: ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.’

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR BRENDA HENRY

HYMN **Seek Ye First** <https://youtu.be/6HniSUB3Qh0>

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness

And all these things shall be added unto you

Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone

But by every word

That proceeds from the mouth of God

Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you

Seek and ye shall find

Knock and the door shall be opened unto you

Allelu, alleluia

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness

And all these things shall be added unto you

Allelu, alleluia

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

Confident that our savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of abundance, your son, Jesus, showed us how to pray so that the blessings of heaven might be ours. Keep us ever mindful of those things which are of true and lasting value. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Let the earth heal from the thoughtless damage we have done to it. Make us passionate stewards of your creation, working diligently for its nurture rather than its destruction. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Bless our world’s religious leaders, and encourage them to be models of faithful living for their communities of faith. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Place your healing hands upon all who are in need, those who are grieving, incarcerated, addicted, isolated, neglected, abused, or ill, (especially). Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to share out of our abundance with those who suffer poverty. Commit us to ensuring that all people have what they need to flourish. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Lord, you know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Continue to open our eyes, ears, and hearts, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For what else do we pray? {Silence} Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

We lovingly remember all the saints whose lives have taught us to store up treasures in heaven. Keep them in your care until the day we all see you together. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray. You have given us an abundance of earthly treasures, O God. Make us generous to return them to your service, that we might put our hearts not in material things, but in selfless love for you and our neighbors. Accept these, our gifts, and use them to bring light and life to your world. **Amen.**

THE 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:

<https://youtu.be/fnPqDhwZPjC>

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in 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 in remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION

Jesus invites us to ask God for our daily bread, by which he means all that we need. Now he calls us to feast on the true bread, which is his own body, in remembrance of him. All is ready. Come and eat.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**
Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

<https://youtu.be/Jp7Qp4RE98A>

- 1 *The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.*
- 2 *We go to comfort those who mourn
and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream
and help the blind to see.*
- 3 *We go to be the hands of Christ,
to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life,
to do the loving deed.*
- 4 *Then let us go to serve in peace,
the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us;
we go in Jesus' name.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

Join Pastor Paul for a study on HUMOR AND THE BIBLE

Often we take the Scriptures so seriously that we hear it only as a source of our faith and belief in God. This is appropriate. However there is another way to approach Scripture. If we can put our piety aside, we might hear the humorous situations described in Scripture and even the humorous way that God speaks to us. This is the objective of the Epiphany Study – taking a slightly different approach to Scripture. You might be surprised or you might surprise yourself!

Come and explore! St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Shadyside is hosting this class. Pastor Paul Koch will teach the course on the following **Tuesday evenings**: January 10, 17, 24, and 31, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Please contact St_andrewELCA@verizon.net
For the Zoom link for this study.

All are welcome, members of PLUM, St. Andrew Church, and friends.

Come have your faith strengthened by the Word of God and have a chuckle or two!

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and meetings:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM Pastoral Team:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Dr. Alexander Sumo	614-218-6730

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

**Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries,
405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110**