

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Service of the Word (WOV pg. 46-53)

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WELCOME

INVOCATION

(Please rise as you are able)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (pg. 77 LBW)

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen

OPENING HYMN

LBW #543 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

GREETING (pg. 78 LBW)

P: 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.

KYRIE (pgs. 78-79 LBW)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: 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. P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy. P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE (pgs. 81-82 LBW)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. **Congregation sings: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

SALUTATION (pg. 82 LBW)

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you. P: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN (Please be seated)

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:21-31

Pew Bible pg. 755

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 147:1-11

L: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

C: How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

L: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;

C: he gathers the exiles of Israel.

L: He heals the brokenhearted

C: and binds up their wounds.

L: He counts the number of the stars

C: and calls them all by their names.

L: Great is our LORD and mighty in power;

C: there is no limit to his wisdom.

L: The LORD lifts up the lowly,

C: but casts the wicked to the ground.

L: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;

C: make music to our God upon the harp.

L: He covers the heavens with clouds

C: and prepares rain for the earth;

L: he makes grass to grow up on the mountains

C: and green plants to serve mankind.

L: He provides food for flocks and herds

C: and for the young ravens when they cry.

L: He is not impressed by the might of a horse;

C: he has no pleasure in the strength of a man.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Pew Bible pg. 1199

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (pg. 83 LBW)

(Please rise as you are able)

Congregation Sings: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 1:29-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter. **Congregation sings: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **Congregation sings: Praise to you, O Christ.** (Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Rev. Ben Black, Sr.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW #87 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
(Please rise as you are able)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (Please rise) Congregation Sings: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (pg. 87 LBW) P: Merciful Father, C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING (pgs. 88-89 LBW)

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (pgs. 89-91) & THE LORD'S PRAYER

LAMB OF GOD (pg. 92 LBW) Congregation Sings: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace. (Please be seated)

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
DISTRIBUTION**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING, CANTICLE & PRAYER (pgs. 93-94 LBW) (Please rise as you are able) Congregation sings: Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory 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

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

LBW #90 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Christ is with you! C: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866 (217) 893-4550
amluthoffice@gmail.com www.alc-rantoul.org

CONTINUED PRAYER CONCERNS:

Loretta Overholt	Jennifer Birkey	Joan Mathis	Willie Carico
Robert Flessner	Sondra Sipes	Earl Smith	Cindy Williams
Rena Shebesta	Rosemary Bennett	Ron Minch	Gabbi Reynolds
Ben Moser	Denny Doyle	Beth Tally	Mary Jean
Shorty Baugher	Rich Friemel	LouAnn Baugher	Lynn Moser
Roy Huff	Joane Wilson	William Benton	Ruth Benton
Kim Wyre	Steve Ritchie	Ella Osterbur	Leon Rocker
Paul Wolters	Martha Stanfill	Kyrsten Valentine	Marla Osterbur
Sharon Loeh	Mary Mallicoat	Nick Shepherd	Joyce Keith
Karen Derges	Bob & Jenny Hobby	Gus Robertson	Kathy Anderson
Mary Ann Heiser	Gordon Peterson	Debbie Peterson	Fred Sommer
Bob & Sue Selby	Bonnie Henderson	Jessica Hawn	Merrill Wattjes
Velma Armstrong	Sandra Ackerman	Kathleen Cooper	Joan Percival
Irene Galindo	Michael Markarian	Pat Gallahue	Joyce Williamson
Courtney Schoolcraft			

NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

Keith Dohleman	Rita Buenting	Mildred Flessner	Ruth Lutz
Ilene Ackerman	Genet Dixon	Janet Withers	

MILITARY (Bolded names are known to be in an area of higher danger):

Kelly Williamson	Jon Stiebner	Alex Short	Brandon Elrod
Kasey Fenimore	Justice Long	Brian Griswold	Levi Loschen
Ryan Falletti	Riley Falletti		

TABLE GUILD	Sally Bauer, Sondra Sipes
ACOLYTES	Logan Suits, Jack Flesner
BULLETIN GREETERS	Shirley Friemel, Anita Pilarski
GREETERS	Mary Peters, Katie Holland
LECTOR	Dennis Albers
PRAYER LEADER	Monica Carico
WORSHIP STEWARD	Steen Bjerre
USHERS	Judy Peck, Rod & Sandy Heiser

WELCOME TO WORSHIP May God's love be made known to you during your time shared here today.

ANNUAL REPORTS will be available to pick-up following the service today. Please bring your copy to the Annual Meeting next Sunday. One per family, please.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE for the call of a pastor will be held in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. this Wednesday, February 7th. A time of fellowship with a light meal begins at 5:45 p.m. prior to the service. All are invited and welcome to attend! There will NOT be a fellowship meal and prayer service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held next Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Worship Service. The Nominating Committee will present the following nominees for office on the Church Council: Elder - Mitch Suits; Trustees - Joyce Holland, Ron Howe, & Lois Sjoken.

CONGREGATIONAL BREAKFAST will be held next Sunday, February 11th, immediately following the Annual Congregational Meeting in the ALC Youth Hall. This breakfast will be provided and served by the youth of our church. A freewill offering will be taken and designated for VBS 2024. Please plan to attend and support our youth!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held next Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the main Sanctuary. Pastor Lehmann will be presiding over the service, the imposition of ashes and communion.

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER There will be a weekday morning prayer service in the chapel at 6:30 a.m. during Lent beginning next Thursday, February 15th. The service is based on the LBW Morning Prayer, runs about a half hour, and allows for those employed or with other obligations to arrive at their destinations in a timely manner. If desired again this year, coffee will be offered for those who can stay for fellowship.

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES will look different this year. We are offering a light meal followed by a Bible Study, "Why Did Jesus Have to Die", to be held entirely in the Youth Hall. The first evening will be Wednesday, February 21st. The light meal/fellowship time will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Bible Study following at 6:00 p.m. (The Wednesday evening prayers will be incorporated into this gathering.) The entire evening of fellowship and study will be approximately 1-1/2 hours. If you have questions or are interested in attending, please contact Sally Bauer at 217-778-5232 by phone or text, or contact the church office by Wednesday, February 14th, so that books can be ordered, and meal planning can be done.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES The remainder of the 2024 offering envelopes are available to pick-up in the church office. If you would like envelopes and none were provided, please contact Judy Peck in the church office.

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION If you are a baptized believer, trusting that the life giving and sustaining power and presence of Christ is truly present in bread and wine, we welcome you to the Lord's table. Children who commune in their home congregations are welcome to commune; those who are not currently communing at the Lord's table are invited to come forward for a blessing keeping their hands to their sides. The center of each tray holds light colored, non-alcoholic juice for those with special circumstances. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request for those with allergies.

ATTENDANCE FROM LAST WEEK:

9:00 a.m. Worship Service – 110

PRAYER CONCERN UPDATES Please call the church office monthly with updates on those currently listed in our prayer concerns.

CANTEEN RUN Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

STUDENT CLOTHING DONATIONS (gently used clothing, new socks, underwear and shoes for children ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade -size 5T to Men's & Women's size small) for Northview Grade School are to be placed in the tub located in the Narthex.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9

THIS WEEK**Sunday, February 4**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:15 a.m. Sunday School & Women's Bible Study

Monday, February 5

12:30 p.m. Quilting

Tuesday, February 6

6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 7

5:30 p.m. Confirmation

5:45 p.m. Fellowship Meal

6:30 p.m. Prayer Service

Thursday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

Sunday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

10:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting followed by Breakfast in the Youth Hall served by our youth

Radio Broadcast Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m. on WPXN 104.9FM



Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars Program

If you have a Thrivent policy, you are eligible to donate your Direct Choice Dollars once each year to support our ALC Christian Preschool. It is Thrivent's way of giving back to the community it represents.

Direct Choice Dollars Online:

1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. Select **Direct Choice Dollars**.
3. Log in by entering your User ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click **Register for account access**.)
4. Choose the organization (**American Lutheran Church Christian Preschool, Rantoul**) to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - Click **Direct Now** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **View activity history** link and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - If you haven't chosen an organization, **enter keyword** (American Lutheran Church Christian Preschool) and click **Search**.
5. Choose **Direct All** or enter a specific number and click **Direct Now**. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone:

1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "**Thrivent Choice**".
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars Program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth).
3. A client service professional will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

***Thank you very much for
supporting the American
Lutheran Church Christian
Preschool!***

Daily Prayers & Lessons – Week of the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2023 – February 10, 2024

Prayer: Almighty God, Heavenly Father you sent your only Son as the Word of Life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Daily Lessons:

Sunday	Exodus 21:12-22:8	Psalm 64	Matthew 24:32-51
Monday	Exodus 22:9-23:9	Psalm 65	Matthew 25:1-13
Tuesday	Exodus 23:1-24:8	Psalm 66	Matthew 25:14-30
Wednesday	Exodus 24:9-25:22	Psalm 67	Matthew 25:31-46
Thursday	Exodus 25:23-26:14	Psalm 68	Matthew 26:1-13
Friday	Exodus 26:15-27:8	Psalm 69	Matthew 26:14-25
Saturday	Exodus 27:9-28:30	Psalm 70	Matthew 26:26-35

Morning Prayer We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words, and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

Mid-Day Prayer Gracious Jesus, our Lord and our God, at this hour you bore our sins in your own body on the tree so that we, being dead to sin, might live unto righteousness. Have mercy upon us now and at the hour of our death, and grant to us, your servants, with all others who devoutly remember your blessed Passion, a holy and peaceful life in this world and, through your grace, eternal glory in the life to come; where, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever. Amen

Evening Prayer We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen