

# First Lutheran Church

Tiffin, Ohio



January 26, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



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God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

THAXTED

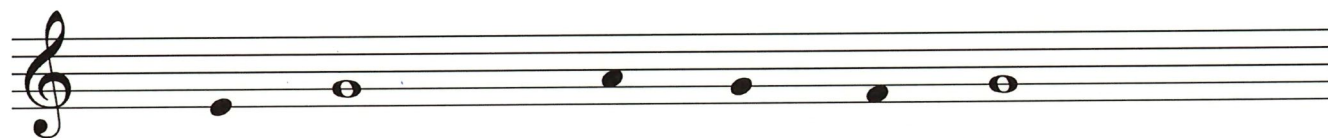
David M. Cherwien

*Prelude on Let Streams of Living Justice*

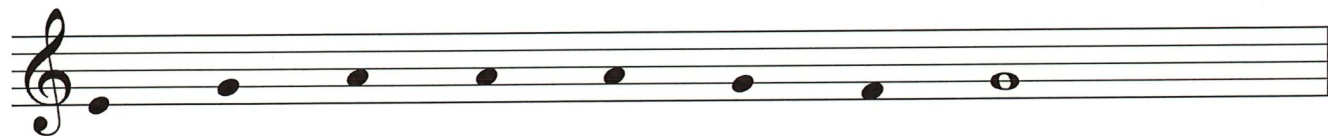
(Please stand)

### MORNING PRAYER

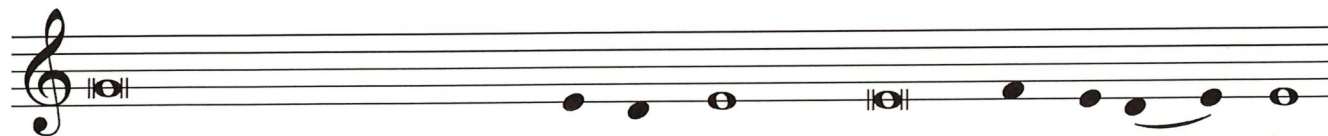
#### + OPENING DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY



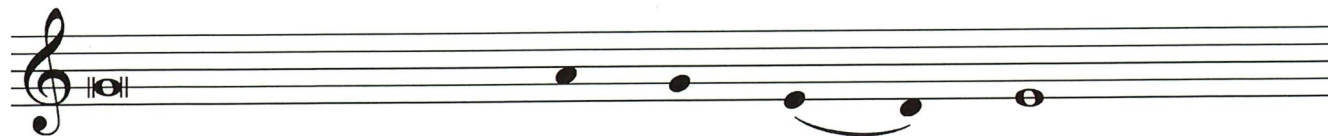
Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,



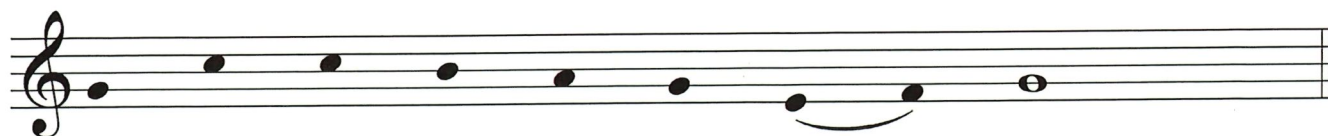
and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

# PSALMODY

## + INVITATORY

Give glory to God, our light and our life.

Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

## + MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

**PSALM 95:1-7**

Come, Let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the

rock of our sal - va - tion.

*repeat the Invitatory above*

## + PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*(Please be seated)*



## WORD

### **FIRST READING**

### **NEHEMIAH 8:1-3,5-6,8-10**

R: A reading from Nehemiah, the 8th chapter.

<sup>1</sup> All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## SECOND READING

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

R: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

<sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup> But strive for the greater gifts.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor: The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor and to proclaim release to the captives.*

## GOSPEL

## LUKE 4:14-21

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>

He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,



to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The gospel of the Lord.



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an-cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo-ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.



*(Please be seated)*

## **SERMON**

**REVEREND KEN OSWALD**

*(Please stand)*

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

*Refrain*

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God the  
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith  
as expressed in the words of the 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.

*(Please be seated)*

## OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

ATKINSON

Matthew H. Corl

*O God of Light*

Char Pope, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

*(Please stand)*

## OFFERING SONG

*O God of Light*



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,





and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.

C: Amen.

*(Please kneel)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the  
church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each petition concludes:*

P: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

*(Please stand)*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C:           **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.**

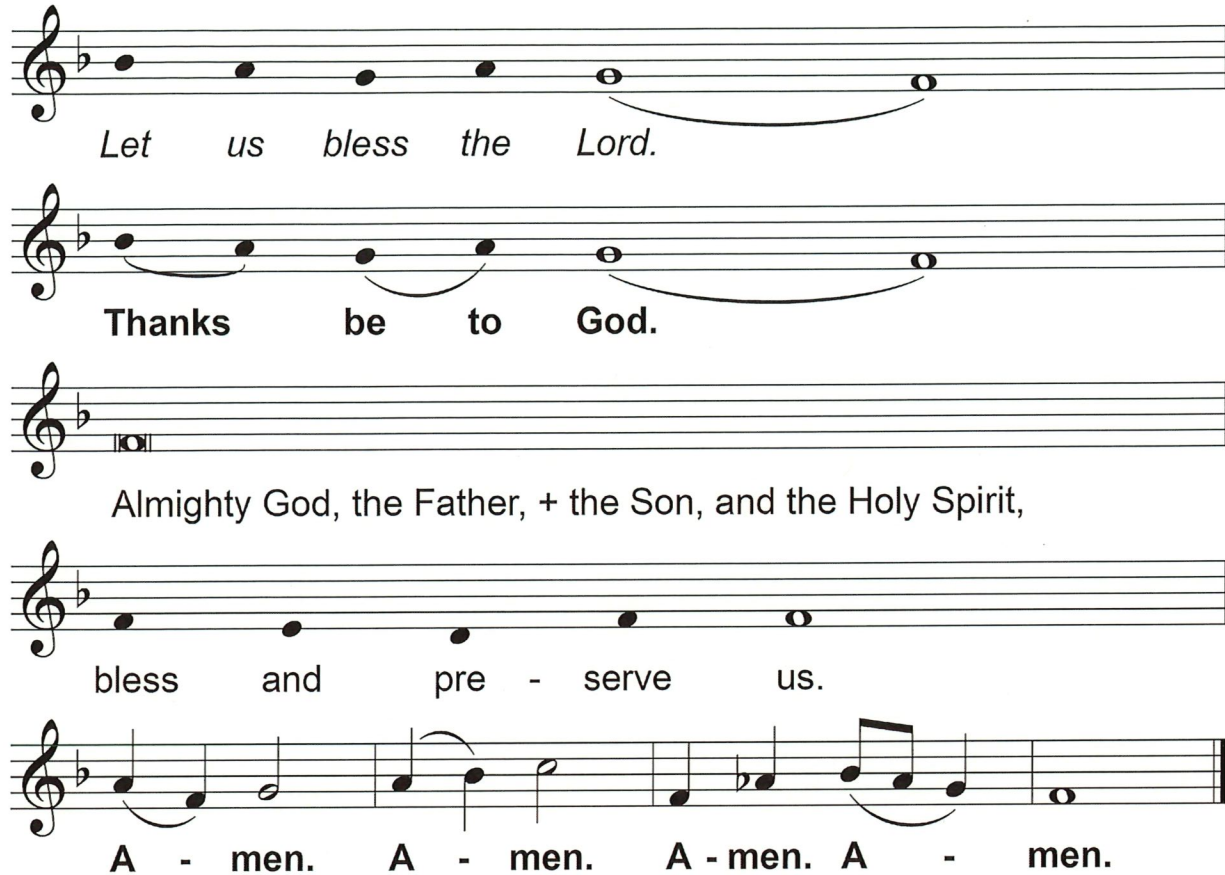
## **SENDING**

### **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure. We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years, and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future. Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.



## BLESSING



Let us bless the Lord.


Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

bless and pre - serve us.

A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

## SENDING SONG



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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## ***DISMISSAL***

L: Go in peace.

P: Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

## ***POSTLUDE***

***FESTAL SONG***

*Barbara Harbach*

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*



## This Week's Calendar

**Sunday** **January 26**

**10:00AM** Church Service  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Potato Luncheon

**Monday** **January 27**

**10:00AM** Bible Study @Willows  
**5:15PM** Bells of Praise

**Tuesday** **January 28**

**4:15pm** Childhood Ministries

**Sunday** **February 2**

**10:00AM** Church Service

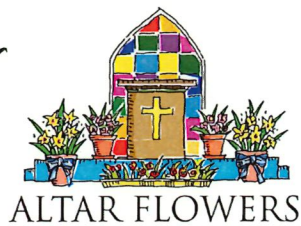
## Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given today in  
memory of

*Robert Meyer*

from the

*Meyer Family*



## Sharing Kitchen

Dates for our participation in the Sharing  
Kitchen are Feb. 24 & 27

There is a sign up sheet located on the wall  
near the Dietz Room if you would be willing  
to volunteer.

## Faith & Family Day

Looking Ahead! Toledo Walleye Faith & Family  
Day

Sunday, March 9, 2025

We need to reserve a block of tickets for this  
family event now! Tickets go fast for this event so  
we need an idea of how many seats to reserve. A  
final count will be taken soon. Before the hockey  
game, there will be a pregame Q&A session led  
by Walleye players and coaches. Fans will have  
any opportunity to hear about their experiences  
with their faith throughout their careers. The game  
will start at 5:15. Postgame will have a free open  
skate at the Huntington Center in Toledo. Tickets  
will be \$19 each. Please contact Shelley Ross and  
let her know how many tickets to reserve for you

[shelley.ross@sycltelco.com](mailto:shelley.ross@sycltelco.com) or

text 419-618-4653.

Thanks!



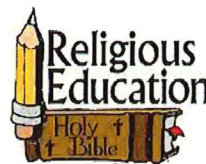
## Catechism Classes

Rick Greene and Mike Porter will be hosting Catechism  
Classes. If anyone is interested

Please contact either one at

Rick Greene: [canacab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:canacab@sbcglobal.net)  
or 419 937-7378

Mike Porter: [Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com)



Cookie Sign up sheets are located  
on the Dietz Room wall. Fellowship  
time is before and after Church  
Service. Approximately 4 dozen  
cookies are needed each week.





## Contact Us



### **First Lutheran Church**

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Tiffin, Ohio 44883

419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

### **Interim Pastor**

Pastor Mark Schuring  
[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

### **Emergency Pastor**

Pastor Doug DeVos  
[ddevos@buckeye-express.com](mailto:ddevos@buckeye-express.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

**Altar Guild:** Donna Brueggemeier  
Sharon Losey  
Deb Hohman  
**Cantor:** Elijah Shiley  
**Facebook Camera:** Shelley Ross  
**Host:** Mills Family  
**Reader:** Beth Margraf  
**Worship Assistant:** Jonathan Nominee



Annual Congregational Report for 2024

## Today after Service

With Potato Lunch  
Following.



## Our Mission Statement

**"God is among us!"**

**"We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,  
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need."**

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