**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 14, 2024**

**9:30am**

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**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

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[www.clplb.com](http://www.clplb.com)

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

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**PRELUDE**  Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth,

wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our rock and refuge, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Come and See*

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**\*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 together. *A brief silence***. 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.**

**WORD**

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** *After this time, children will be invited to Sunday school. They will return during the passing of the peace.*

**SCRIPTURE READING** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 PewBible New Testament Pg. 177

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 639

1O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
**2You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**  
 3You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.  
 **4Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.**  
 5You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
**6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.** 13For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**14I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;  
 that I know very well.** 15My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
 **16Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.** 17How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!  
**18I try to count them — they are more than the sand; I come to the end — I am still with you**.

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Description automatically generated**\***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Listen, God is Calling ELW #513*

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**\*GOSPEL** John 1:43-51 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 95

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** Pastor Nikki Fielder

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**\*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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 CHURCH**

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.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** Roger Halvorson

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**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together: **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.**

**MEAL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*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…

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

…with this bread and cup, we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.** **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**lamb of god**

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Description automatically generated**COMMUNION SONG** *Take My Life, That I May Be ELW #583*

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**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **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. Amen.**

**SENDING\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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

**\*BLESSING**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

☩ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING** **SONG** *Lord, I lift Your Name on High*

Lord, I lift your name on high,

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I’m so glad you’re in my life,

I’m so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the to the sky; Lord I lift your name on high. *Repeat all*

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go is peace.  You are God’s beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson



*Congregation members, please come to the social hall after getting your coffee.*

*Our annual meeting will begin at 11:00am.*

*We will vote on the 2024 church council, our budget and hear plans for the year.*



**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**  Rev. Nicole Fielder, pastor@christlutheranlb.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, [officemanager@christlutheranlb.com](mailto:officemanager@christlutheranlb.com)

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**A/V Technician** Brad Croes **Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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