

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.



January 28, 2024

9:30 a.m.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue North ~ New Hope, MN 55427
Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net Email: office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: "Grounded in Christ's love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God's love through worship, service, and fellowship."

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am
in person or on Facebook "LIVE"
at facebook.com/holynativitynewhope!

The nursery is available during worship for families with kids ages 3 and under.

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom	Pastor
Iver Hubert	Director of Music & Worship
Lisa Stockert	Organist & Communications Coordinator
Kristen Chamberlain	Sunday School Director
Linda Lien	Congregational Care Coordinator & Set-Up Funeral Coordinator
Wendy Grimes	Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Wiblishauser	Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up
Kara Holt	Financial Coordinator
Amy Laite	Sunday Nursery Coordinator (September through April)
Tawn Hanson	Wedding Coordinator
Brittany Anderson	Director of Week-Day Childcare Center (hncccc.org)

Worship "Stream" Team:

Mark Chamberlain
Harper Chamberlain
Andrew Kubly
Chris Daniels
Isaac Daniels

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

“When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people.”
-Abraham Joshua Heschel

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray, and reflect on why we are here.

GATHERING MUSIC *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”* Wayne L. Wold

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

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)

P: 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.

WE PRAISE GOD

GATHERING HYMN *“Faith Begins By Letting Go”* All Creation Sings #1004

GREETING & KYRIE Red Folder Pg. 13

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Glory to God”* Red Folder Pg. 14
(Congregation sings refrain to begin and after each verse)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison) Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Praise the Lord. Let songs of joy break forth.
Sing Alleluia. Praise His name forevermore.
Shout, sing and dance and celebrate. Come dance and celebrate.
Rejoice; let all within us praise His name.
Shout, sing and dance and celebrate.
Sing Alleluia. Praise His Name forevermore.
Shout, sing, let songs of joy break forth.
Praise the Lord, O praise Him. Let songs of joy break forth.
Sing Alleluia. Sing for joy.
Rejoice. O praise His holy name forevermore.*

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 111 (tone 4) *(sung responsively)*

(first line of each verse)

(second line of each verse)

Leader: ¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

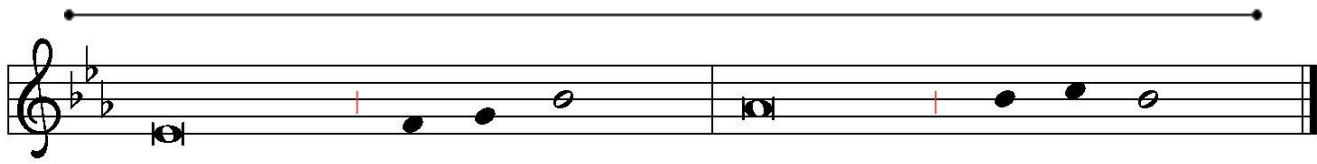
All: ² **Great are your ¹ works, O Lord,
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.**

Leader: ³ Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

All: ⁴ **You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered;
you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

Leader: ⁵ You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

All: ⁶ **You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.**



(first line of each verse)

(second line of each verse)

Leader: ⁷ The works of your hands are faithful-¹ness and justice;
all of your pre-¹cepts are sure.

**All: ⁸ They stand fast forev-¹er and ever,
because they are done in¹ truth and equity.**

Leader: ⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove-¹nant forever;
holy and awesome¹ is your name.

**All: ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the begin-¹ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en-¹dures forever.**

SECOND READING

1st Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words... Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE

“Alleluia ”

Red Folder Pg. 15

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:21-28

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Mark... Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean

spirits, and they obey him.”²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord... Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Unexpected Freedom”

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There Is A Balm In Gilead”

Red Hymnal #614

APOSTLES’ CREED

Hymnal Pg. 105

C: 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.

OFFERING/CHILDREN’S TIME

(If you are worshiping at home, you are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.” Thank you!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

LORD’S PRAYER (unison) **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.**

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen**

MISSION HYMN

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Red Hymnal #876

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

R.B. Farlee

Flowers by the altar are given by Jerry & Karen Gaasland in celebration of 55 years of marriage.

WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p>Sunday, January 28th <i>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:45am Education 11:30am Congregational Meeting 12:00pm – 3:00pm Holy Ghost Church</p>	<p>Thursday, February 1st Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 9:00am Quilters</p>
<p>Monday, January 29th Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 7:00pm Ensemble 7:00pm Scouts</p>	<p>Friday, February 2nd Office Hours 9:00am – 1:00pm</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 30th Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 10:00am Bible Study 3:45pm Staff Meeting 5:00 – 7:00pm Holy Ghost Church (Annex) 7:00pm Treble Tones</p>	<p>Saturday, February 3rd</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 31st Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 9:30am Lounge reserved</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Nativity Choir</p>	<p>Sunday, February 4th <i>Youth Takeover & Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30am Fellowship Time 10:45am Education 12:00pm – 3:00pm Holy Ghost Church</p>
<p>PRISM is in need of all food donations. January’s Mission Offering is designated to Lutheran Disaster Response.</p>	

TODAY...

Education is at 10:45am:

- **Sunday Forum** meets in the worship area and is led by Pastor Jason. Topic is **“Beating Burnout: Rejuvenating Congregational Volunteers.”** *Burnout is a big problem in our modern world as we always seem to be overbusy, overstressed, overscheduled and under-rested! When burnout creeps in, it can rob us of the joy and satisfaction that we used to feel in our everyday activities. In a church, it can turn a happy volunteer into a resentful ex volunteer. How can we avoid this?*
- **Sunday School** begins and meets in the large room at the end of the Sunday School hall.
- **Youth Forum** (for 7th – 9th graders) is in the youth room.



Join us for our congregational meeting today at 11:30am. We’ll be discussing and adopting our 2024 budget. Pick up annual reports in the narthex.

UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS...

Youth Takeover Sunday is next Sunday, February 4th. We’re excited to have our youth lead worship!

The **Second Annual Wildfire “Marty” Gras Fundraiser** to benefit Every Meal will take place in our Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, February 10th from 12:00 – 3:00pm** and will feature Bingo and prizes, Popcorn, a Pizza and Soda Lunch, a Bead Game and a Bake Sale. This event is being held to raise funds to help with the cost of providing weekly food bags to District 281 elementary age students who are experiencing food scarcity. Five

Wildfire churches are involved with the event; however help from each church is needed to ensure the success of this fundraiser. **Of greatest need is the donation of baked goods for the Bake Sale and help with serving Pizza, Soda, and Popcorn.** *If you can help, a sign-up sheet is available in the narthex or call Nancy Van Heel at 763-559-1190 to sign up or receive further information.*

Trivia Night Fundraiser! Please plan to join us on Tuesday, February 13th for Shrove Tuesday Trivia and Dinner! 6:00pm dinner and 7:00pm trivia. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the door. Come with your own team of up to eight people, or be assigned to one when you get here!

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 14th at 7:00pm. We'll have soup suppers each Wednesday at 5:45pm and worship at 7:00pm. Our series this year is "Altered by the Spirit." We will experience a kaleidoscope of stories from the Book of Acts. We will be experiencing each of these stories with a new preacher each week, part of a round robin with some of our Wildfire partners (House of Hope, First Lutheran, and Faith Lilac Way).

Family Camp! We are returning to Camp Wapo February 23th – 25th for a weekend of rest together. Games, snacks, puzzles, movies, reading, broomball, hiking, naps, or nothing at all. Families, couples, singles – all are welcome! Cost: The cost for the weekend, which includes lodging and three meals on Saturday, as well as brunch on Sunday morning, is as follows. However, please note that there is a \$275.00 family maximum, so no family will pay more than that! Sign up deadline is Friday, February 9th. Have questions? Kristin Daniels would love to talk with you. Sign up on the kiosk.

Think summer! Camp Wapo registration is open! Holy Nativity's week is August 4th - 9th and it is open to anyone in grades 4-12. We have spots for Holy Nativity that will open up to the general public starting February 16th, so register before then. The deposit is \$150. We will try to fundraise the remaining cost, so please let Pastor Jason or Wendy know if you have registered. Visit the Camp Wapo website for info: <https://lakewapo.org/>.

Thank you for your continued financial support! If you are worshiping with us at home, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

- **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).
- **Scan this QR code with your phone to make a donation online.** Or go to our website at holynativity.net and click on "Make Donation."
- **Contact the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals



If you have a prayer request or update, or wish to be added to our prayer group, please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or office@holynativity.net.

Thank you to today's worship assistants!	
Council Host	Connie Toavs
Cantor	Kristen Chamberlain
Scripture Reader	Dean Birkholz
Greeter	Chris, Kristin, Joshua & Isaac Daniels
Ushers	Elizabeth Schmitz, Todd & Leah Weisjahn
Social Hour Hosts/Coffee Servers	Joe & Debra Gartner
Acolytes	
Altar Guild Assistants	Deb Peterson, Nora Levenson