

Sunday, January 28, 2024

*Epiphany 4*



## **INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 107**

**Pastor:** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

**People:** For His steadfast love endures forever!

**Pastor:** Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,

**People:** Whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,

**Pastor:** From the east and from the west,

**People:** From the north and from the south.

**Pastor:** Let them thank the LORD for His steadfast love,

**People:** For His wondrous works to the children of man!

**Pastor:** For He satisfies the longing soul,

**People:** And the hungry soul He fills with good things.

**People:** Glory be 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.

## ***THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT - Isaiah 9:2***

The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been, in shades of death have been.

To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored, the God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one, and Holy Spirit, one.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Luke 18:9-14**

<sup>9</sup>He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **SERMON**

**Pastor Aaron Smith**

***Apologetics: Christian Awareness***

## **CONFESSION OF SIN - Romans 2:19-20; 3:21-22**

**Pastor:** We confess our sins to God, acknowledging we have broken God's law, summarized in the Ten Commandments.

**People:** **Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.**

**Pastor:** But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it - the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. By grace through faith in Christ alone, you are forgiven. Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the living, and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **COMMITMENT TO LOVE**

**Pastor:** Let us reaffirm our commitment to love one another, using Colossians 3.

**People:** **Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

## **CONFESSION OF SACRAMENT - 1 Corinthians 10**

**Pastor:** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?

**People:** **The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?**

**Pastor:** Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

*Offerings can be placed on a plate near the stairs or the back of the sanctuary.*

*Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is celebrated today. Our Lord cautions us to be discerning before participating in the Supper (1 Cor. 11:28-30). For this reason, we ask all those communing here for the first time to speak with Pastor Aaron prior to communing. The Lord bids the baptized to come united in the following: in repentance for the forgiveness of sins (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt. 26:26-28), in confession of who Christ is and what Christ has done (1 Cor. 11:26), in faith and love with our fellow communicants (1 Cor. 11:20-22), and believing that Christ is bodily present in bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:27-29).*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### ***HOLY FOREVER - Revelation 4***

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us  
And all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

*Pre-Chorus: Cause Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all*

***Chorus: And the angels cry Holy, all creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever***

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen

*(Chorus)*

***Hear Your people sing Holy, to the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever***

*(Pre-Chorus 2x)*

*(Chorus)*

***Hear Your people sing Holy to the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever***

## **FIRM FOUNDATION - Matthew 7:24-27**

Christ is my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus, 'cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations, so why would He fail now

***He won't***

I've still got joy in chaos, I've got peace that makes no sense  
So I won't be going under, I'm not held by my own strength  
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus, He's never let me down  
He's faithful in every season, so why would He fail now

***He won't, He won't, He won't fail, He won't fail***

Christ is my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus, 'cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations, so why would He fail now

***He won't, He won't, He won't fail, He won't fail***

***No, He won't fail, He won't fail***

*Bridge: Rain came and wind blew*

*But my house was built on You*

*And I'm safe with You*

*And I'm going to make it through (REPEAT 3x)*

*Yeah I'm going to make it through*

*'Cause I'm standing strong on You*

*Yeah I'm going to make it through*

*'Cause my house is built on You*

Christ is my firm foundation, the rock on which I stand  
When everything around me is shaken, I've never been more glad  
That I put my faith in Jesus, 'cause He's never let me down  
He's faithful through generations, so why would He fail now

***He won't, He won't, He won't fail, He won't fail***

***No, He won't fail, He won't fail me***

## PRAYERS

### BENEDICTION - 1 Thessalonians 5

**Pastor:** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

**People: Amen**

### ***O PRAISE THE NAME - Matthew 27:32-28:6 & Romans 6:9-10***

I cast my mind to Calvary  
Where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds His hands His feet  
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

***Chorus: O praise the Name of the Lord our God  
O praise His Name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God***

Then on the third at break of dawn  
The Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting  
The angels roar for Christ the King

*(Chorus 2x)*

***Bridge 2x: He shall return in robes of white  
The blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face***

*(Chorus)*

***For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord oh Lord our God***

## **PROJECT GODWAY 2024 - Calling all Middle School Girls and Volunteers!**

- ⇒ **Project Godway 2024 Season 12, starts Friday, February 23rd!**
- ⇒ **Ladies** - Volunteers are needed to help with various craft projects and other things on the five Friday nights (and one Saturday night, March 23) of the season. Go to [www.projectgodway.com](http://www.projectgodway.com) for more info and to sign up!
- ⇒ **Prayers** - Please pray for us! Our heart desires that many young ladies will join us to "Learn more about their Creator as they explore their Creativity." Please pray we can share the love of Jesus with, and help strengthen the faith of, many young ladies in our community!
- ⇒ **Middle School girls** - Sign up Today! And come hang out with us for Crafts! Food! Fun! And Faith! This season is titled The Journey: Walking by the Word. Our focus verse is Psalms 119:105 "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Project Godway is free and open to all middle school girls in the community! So invite a friend or two or three!
- ⇒ **More Info** - To learn more about Project Godway season 12 and ways you can support or join us, please reach out to Helena Isbell @ 760-310-1566 or [ph.isbell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ph.isbell@sbcglobal.net) (text, call, or email) Please visit our website at [www.projectgodway.com](http://www.projectgodway.com).

## **GRACE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

For February, we will be reading *The Things We Cannot Say*, by Kelly Rimmer. The club will meet on Thursday, February 22 at 7:00 PM at Judi Anderson's home, 2817 Cantegra Glen, Escondido (gate code #1532). Please contact Judi at [heyjude6168@cox.net](mailto:heyjude6168@cox.net) or 760-443-2278 to confirm your participation.

## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: Ushers Needed for 9:00 AM Service**

Do you have a heart to serve? Would you like to volunteer with some really fun folks? Can you make a minimal commitment of a few Sundays each year? Do you like a flexible schedule? Contact Bob Glaser at 760-533-6942 or [bobglaser22@gmail.com](mailto:bobglaser22@gmail.com) to get started.

## **NEED HELP WITH MEALS?**

Maybe you have had surgery or an illness? A new baby? Are you juggling care for a parent, your own family, AND a job? If you or someone you know needs meals brought to them, please let us know.

The Grace Meal Ministry wants to help you! Contact Yoke in the church office: [ytanko@gracelcms.net](mailto:ytanko@gracelcms.net) or 760-745-0831, or Shaila Schmidt at 760-525-5114, or Jody Glaser at 760-522-5226. Thank you to all who have signed up to help with meals! If you have a heart for serving and would like to be a part of this ministry contact anyone of the above mentioned.

## Ash Wednesday Service February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

### THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

**January 28** *The Unlikely Ally: Rahab Believes* **Joshua 2**

God saved His spies in Jericho through the unlikely and unexpected Rahab. God has saved us, His people today, through the unexpected and undeserved sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

### SERMON READINGS

January 14 The Problem of Evil-Part 1

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

January 21 The Problem of Evil-Part 2

Hebrews 4:4-16

**January 28** *Christian Awareness*

**Luke 18:9-14**

February 4 Christian Interest

John 4:5-19

### THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The Epiphany Season begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>, with the Major Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord, which commemorates the visit of the Magi (Gentiles) to Jesus. Epiphany (appearance or manifestation) focuses upon the manifestation of God-in-the-flesh to the world, especially the Gentiles. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The Baptism of our Lord (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany) and the Festival of the Transfiguration are the bookends of the Epiphany Season. They highlight the theme of manifestation.

The color for Epiphany is green. Green is the color of growth, as the Church celebrates the growth of Jesus' ministry as He makes Himself known in word and deed. The Church rejoices in the appearance of the Incarnate God for the whole world. The festivals in the Epiphany Season use the color white, as the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ is made known to the world.



#### *Continued prayers/homebound:*

Lorene Best, Sherry Fischer, Barbara Guy, Norma Kellerup,  
Ellie Liebmann, Dorothy Ross, Dennis Roth, Janis Smith.

#### December Giving Report:

Actuals: \$86,882

Budget: \$87,266

**-\$384**

YTD Actuals: \$316,953

YTD Budget: \$299,404

**\$17,549**

### ON SITE SERVICES AND MEETINGS

#### Sunday Worship:

9:00AM English Worship Service

10:30AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

11:30AM Spanish Worship Service

For online worship please go to:

[gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/](http://gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/)

[gracelutheranescondido.org](http://gracelutheranescondido.org)

New Horizons Bible Study Wed. 9:30am

Women's Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. 9am

High School Youth *"The Stand"* Wed. 6:30-9pm

Adult Bible Study Thursday 7pm

Men's Bible Study Saturday 7:30am

Junior High School *"Face to Face"* Sat. 5:30-8:30pm

[graceschoolescondido.org](http://graceschoolescondido.org)