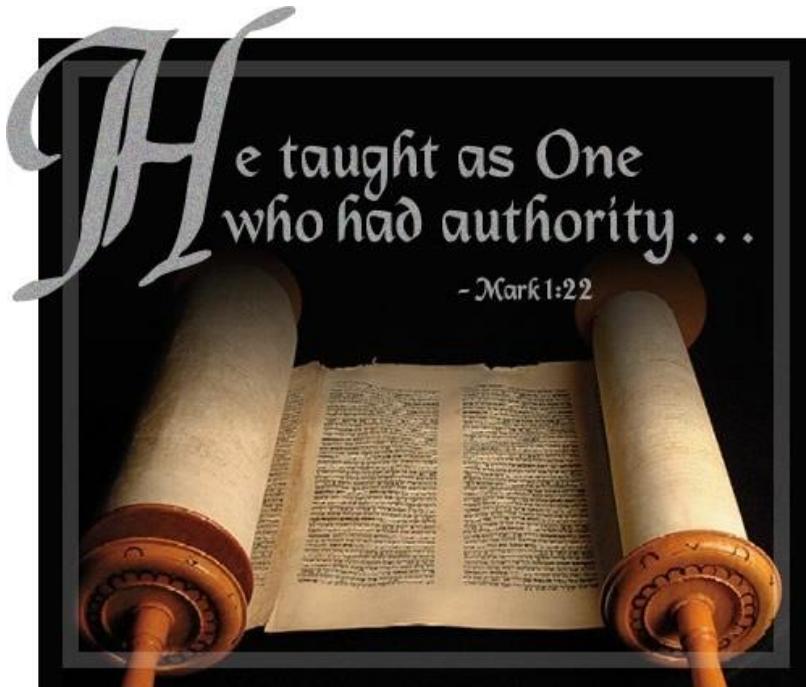




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
4th Sunday in Epiphany
January 28, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus’ fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

2 Timothy 1:7

MEN - “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

WOMEN - “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalms 23

MEN - "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." Psalms 46:1-3

WOMEN - "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

ALL - "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalms 27:1

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat -'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
vour us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Introit

Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
- C** **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**
- P** Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- C** **I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave
the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- C** **You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- C** **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.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

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

Heavenly Father, You raised up Your Son as a Prophet, to speak to us Your perfect Word. Grant us the will to listen to Him as One who speaks with authority in our lives; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die."

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

¹Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed 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.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Verse

Mark 1:22a

C Alleluia. They were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one who had authority.
Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching.

²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“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 out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

He Reigns

It's the song of the redeemed
Rising from the African plain
It's the song of the forgiven
Drowning out the Amazon rain
The song of Asian believers
Filled with God's holy fire
It's every tribe every tongue every nation
A love song born of a grateful choir

***CHORUS: It's all God's children singing
Glory glory hallelujah
He reigns He reigns
It's all God's children singing
Glory glory hallelujah
He reigns (He reigns)***

Let it rise above the four winds
Caught up in the heavenly sound
Let praises echo from the towers of cathedrals
To the faithful gathered underground
Of all the songs sung from the dawn of creation
Some were meant to persist
Of all the bells rung from a thousand steeples
None rings truer than this ***CHORUS***

BRIDGE: And all the powers of darkness
Tremble at what they've just heard
'Cause all the powers of darkness
Can't drown out a single word

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Sermon – “Jesus’ Authoritative Word”

Confession and Absolution

P Jesus speaks with authority. He expects us to listen to Him in His Word, to listen to Him in His Word Preached. Yet, far too often, we choose to listen to others. We listen to opinions of mankind. We choose to listen to our sinful natures, the world, or the temptations of the devil. Though we confess that Jesus is our Lord, too often we do not bow to His authority. We confess our sins:

C **Father in heaven, I confess my sins to You:**
I have not listened to You as I should.
I have listened to others who have led me to sin.
I have sinned against You in action.
I have sinned against You in my thoughts.
I have sinned against You in my desires.
I pray that You have mercy on me, a sinner.

P Jesus speaks with authority. He spoke with absolute authority when He announced, “It is finished!” He has paid for your sins in full, for every sin of thought, desire, and action. And so in His name, and by His authority, these are His Words which I declare to you as an under-Shepherd of the Good Shepherd: I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Holy Trinity, You are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but You alone. From You and from Your Son, Jesus Christ, are all things. Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to us and all the world, that loving You and one another, together we may be known by God. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

MEN – O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses. Send faithful preachers into Your harvest who will be diligent to listen to Your Word and speak it faithfully in Your name. Preserve us from false prophets who would lead us away from Your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children, strengthen those whose faith is weak, and make us bold to forego convenience and security to attest the truths of our most holy faith with heart and action. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

MEN – Almighty God, give health and success to our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection. Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need. Sustain them with patience, trusting in Your merciful care, and graciously relieve them. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

G **Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

- C** We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Communion

- P** With the forgiveness of sins you have received through confession and absolution, through His Word heard and preached, Jesus frees you from the chains of the past, you are empowered to fight against temptation, and you can now be a wounded healer in this world, bringing His love, His hope, His peace and promises. As you hear His voice of authority, He equips you **as** He calls you. He is not really interested in your abilities, or lack of abilities, He desires your availability and faithfulness.

Available (sung by Miss Esther Kaufmann)

Narrow as the road may seem
I'll follow where Your spirit leads
Broken as my life may be
I will give You every piece

CHORUS: I hear You call
I am available
I say yes Lord
I am available

Here I am with open hands
Counting on Your grace again
Less of me and more of You
I just wanna see You move

Here I am here I am
You can have it all
You can have it all

For the one who gave me life
Nothing is a sacrifice
Use me how You want to God
Have Your throne within my heart

CCLI Song # 7129065

Ben Fielding | Chris Brown | Jason Ingram | Matt Redman | Steven Furtick
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You Are My Hiding Place (Sung in a "round", if you know it)

You are my hiding place,
You always fill my heart with songs
Of deliverance,
Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You,
I will trust in You,
Let the weak say,
"I am strong in the strength of the Lord."

You are my hiding place,
You always fill my heart with songs
Of deliverance,
Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You,
I will trust in You,
Let the weak say,
"I am strong in the strength of the Lord,

Grace Flows Down

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
Amazing love now flowing down
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
Grace flows down and covers me

***CHORUS: It covers me
It covers me
It covers me
And covers me***

Closing Prayer

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

***CHORUS: Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope***

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope ***CHORUS***

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa

***CHORUS: Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope***

ENDING Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

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Benediction

Psalm 32:10

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

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