

**4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Dan Obenschain

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.
The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.
We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in his holy temple.
**We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.**

—based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

 **Invocation**

Dan Obenschain

God of light and truth,
you are beyond our grasp or conceiving.
Before the brightness of your presence
the angels veil their faces.
With lowly reverence and adoring love
we acclaim your glory
and sing your praise,
for you have shown us your truth and love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

 **Hymn 64**

All Creatures of Our God and King

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Dan Obenschain

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in
Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

—based on Romans 8:39

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

Dan Obenschain

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

—Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11, NRSV

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dan Obenschain

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

—John 3:16-17, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

 **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation

Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices
are pleasing to God.

—from Hebrews 13:16, NRSV

Offering

Offertory

 **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

Prayer of Dedication

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 249

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Proclaiming ***God speaks to us through His Word***

Scripture Reading

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ Then an expert in the law stood up to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the law?” he asked him. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,**” and “**your neighbor as yourself.**”

²⁸ “You’ve answered correctly,” he told him. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ Jesus took up the question and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw the man, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him. When I come back I’ll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

³⁷ “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said.

Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”

Sermon

*“Good Neighbors”
Rev. Tim Latham*



Praise Song

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

*O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths in flow
may richer, fuller be.*

*O light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,
I can not close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.*

Responding

We respond to God's Word



Profession of Faith (Psalm 46)

**God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."**

**The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

—Psalm 46, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Hymn 92

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Benediction & Blessing



Postlude