

February 2, 2025,  
4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
Pastor Tom Olson  
Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Jan Ellingson (Fugleberg)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 84

PASTOR: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

ALL: My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

PASTOR: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

ALL: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

PASTOR: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

ALL: No good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

PASTOR: O LORD Almighty,

ALL: Blessed is the man who trusts in you.

HYMN #549 “Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

CONFESSION OF SIN: Psalm 51:1-7 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

CHILDREN’S SERMON:

Reader: Jacob O’Flanagan

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *1 Samuel 1:21-28* When the man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow, 22 Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always." 23 "Do what seems best to you," Elkanah her husband told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. 25 When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli, 26 and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. 27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. 28 So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 2:22-40* When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you now dismiss your servant in peace.  
30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people,  
32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

33 *The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.*  
34 *Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." 36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.*

**READER:** Here ends the reading of God's Word.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:** God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** *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, 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 is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall 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 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*

**GLORIA PATRI:** *Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)*  
*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. Amen, Amen.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

**PRAISE SONGS PICKED BY JAN**

**SERMON TITLE: "ADDICTED TO DONUTS"**  
**Mark 1:29-39; Pastor Tom Olson; February 2, 2025**  
*Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

**I. JESUS UNDERSTANDS OUR ADDICTIONS**

**Hebrews 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is, the devil- 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**II. JESUS FORGIVES OUR FAILURES**

**Hebrews 2:16-17** *For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

**III. JESUS IS ABLE TO HELP US FIND FREEDOM**

**Hebrews 2:18** *Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

*May the peace of God that passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds through faith in Messiah Jesus. Amen*

**HYMN #427 “How Helpless Guilty Nature Lies”**

**HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION:** *May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever-- Grant you peace, Perfect peace, Strength in every endeavor. Lift up your eyes and see His face, Feel His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty Lord, Bless and keep you forever.*

**POSTLUDE: Jan Ellingson**