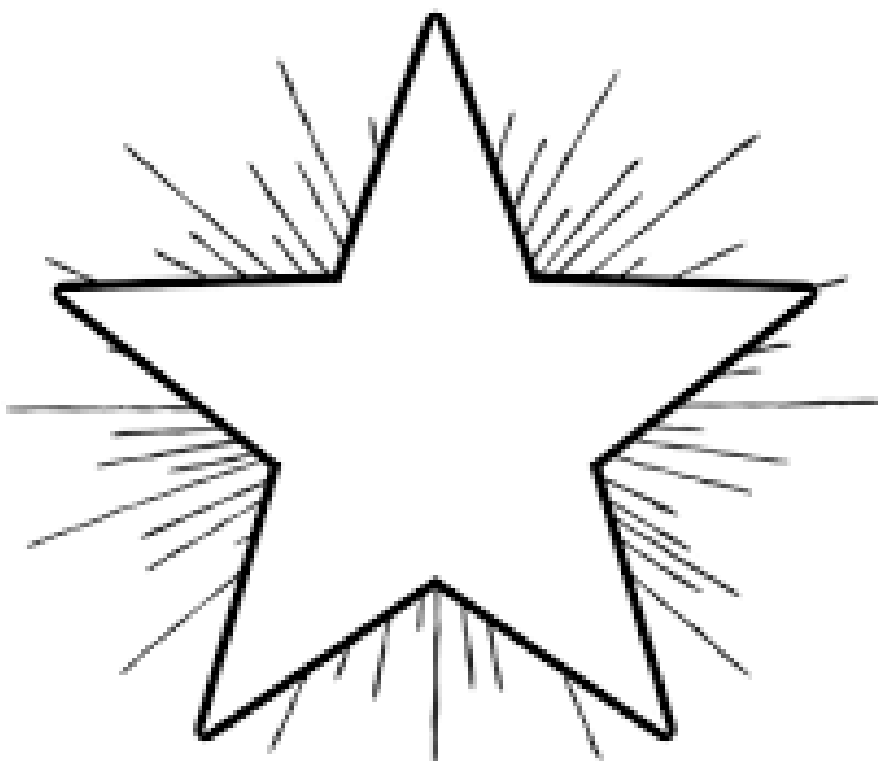


# Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship

---



**Atonement Lutheran Church**

**Invite • Prepare • Go into the World**

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

# **GATHERING**

## **PRELUDE**

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

## **\*WELCOME**

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to greed and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their bondage. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and renew your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

*\*Please Stand As You Are Able*

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

# 673

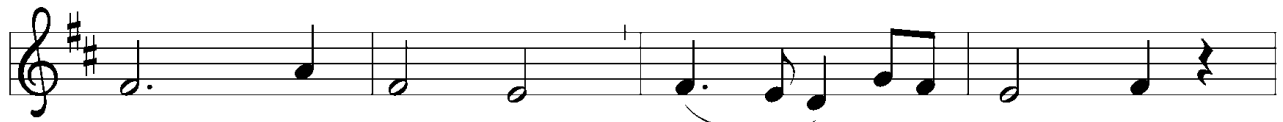
**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what  
you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **PSALM 71:1-6**

*Read responsively. Congregation reads **bold** type.*

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.
- <sup>4</sup> **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- <sup>5</sup> For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,  
my confidence since I was young.
- <sup>6</sup> **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's  
womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

### **SECOND READING**      *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

*A reading from first Corinthians*

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of

wrongs; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*I Love to Tell the Story, verse 1*

# 661



I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.



I love to tell the sto - ry. be - cause I know it's true:



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.

*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

**\*HOLY GOSPEL***Luke 4:21-30*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup> He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’ ” <sup>24</sup> And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil, sung twice*      # 721

**FAREWELL AND GODSPEED**

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS**

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

God, shining with grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, O God, as we behold the light of Christ's presence, and rejoice in the brightness of his glory. **Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*With Songs of Rejoicing*

*-J. S. Bach*

*Offering gifts are gratefully received  
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

## **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.  
**Amen.**

## **MEAL**

## **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**


## **\*PROPER PREFACE**

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,





heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

*All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.*

*~Come forward by the center aisle.*

*~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.*

*~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.*

*~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.*

## **SENDING**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **\*SENDING HYMN**

*Lift High the Cross*

# 660

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, rejoicing in the light of God's love. **Thanks be to god.**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Come, Thou Fount*

*-arr. G. Wasson*

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;  
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Assisting Minister ..... Jean Seager  
Livestream Recorder..... Dave Irish  
Offering Counters ..... Bryan Howe, Michelle Laraby  
Usher ..... Karan Thompson  
Altar Care ..... Judy Lazenby  
Fellowship Host ..... Karen Goodyear

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
*Join us \*TODAY\* following worship in Reissig Hall*  
*Refreshments will be provided*

### **FAREWELL AND GODSPEED FOR PASTOR DEBBIE JOHNSON**

***\*TODAY\* During Our 9:30 a.m. Service***

Please join us in offering Farewell & Godspeed to Debbie Johnson as she moves to Sacramento, CA in February. Pastor Debbie has been a blessing to our Atonement Family and to a wide circle of congregations, colleagues, pastors, and friends in the Rochester community and Synod. May God's Spirit guide, bless, and be present with her in the journey ahead.

### **OUTREACH/DISCIPLESHP MEETING**

***Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room***

The agenda will include planning a spring BBQ, Lenten season outreach project, and summer happenings. We hope to see you then!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VALENTINE'S DAY COLLEGE CONNECTION COLLECTION**

Let's spread some love to our Atonement college-attending students! We will be collecting items to be included in care packages ***through Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>***. Packages will be delivered to our students in time for Valentine's Day.

In order to keep the cost of postage to a minimum, we are proposing the packages include a few individually wrapped sweets/chocolates and also some \$5.00 gift cards to those favorite beverage stops, Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, or Tim Horton's. Please place your donations of candy and gift cards on the table in the Narthex. Any questions should be directed to Barb Sanko.

### **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION**

On **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** we will hold our annual *Tackle Hunger* event as we collect cans of soup and chili for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. Catch the spirit of giving by bringing in a can- or two -or more -for the next two Sundays, placing it on the table in the narthex.

### **CAN YOU HELP? ... USHERS NEEDED**

We are looking for a few more people that can assist with worship by acting as Ushers. Typically, Ushers rotate every 4-6 weeks. Please speak with one of our current Ushers to let them know if you can help in this capacity, or leave a note in the office. "*Many hands make light work.*" Thank you!

### **FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS**

Our First Friday Friends group will be meeting on **Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 a.m. until Noon in Reissig Hall. Bring your own project to work on, or we have some supplies you can use. Coffee and treats are provided. If you have any questions, contact Karen Goodyear or Barb Sanko.

## A LETTER FROM BISHOP LEE MILLER II, UPSTATE NY SYNOD, ELCA

*Dear Church,*

I write the letter below to you, but I also want to let you know that I will be sharing the letter publicly with print media outlets across our synod. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. Thank you for your proclamation in word and in deed. Thanks be to God who forms us in love, redeems us by grace, and sends us into the world activated by love to share in God's justice and joy.

*"The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."*

Psalm 103:8

*"But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us  
<sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ\*-  
by grace you have been saved."*

*Ephesians 2:4-6*

Why is an invitation to mercy so controversial?

The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde's sermon for the Inaugural Prayer Service focused on unity. She said striving for unity is a sacrificial act, one that requires seeing dignity in every individual. The bishop concluded with a request of the president, "to have mercy" when enacting the policies of his administration.

As bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America I support Bishop Budde in her call for mercy. We believe that the Divine Creator made human beings in their image. We believe that every person is created in this image of loving-kindness, with inherent value, dignity and worth, as stated in the Psalms. We believe God creates humanity in diversity, capable of sharing love and showing mercy to one another.

Our diversity encompasses a variety of ethnicities, cultures, identities, and expressions, including sex, gender, and sexuality. Our church is committed to advocating for and supporting laws, policies, and practices that respect diverse bodies, rejecting those which discriminate, objectify, or devalue.

Founded by immigrants, this church "advocates for and supports legal reforms, humane policies, and adequate services for migrants, immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, especially those who experience intersecting forms of oppression." (ELCA Faith, Sexism, and Justice). Advocacy is what love for our neighbors looks like.

We join with people of faith to stand with, and show mercy to those who are afraid, working together for freedom, dignity, and equity for all.

*The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Bishop*

## God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

## Goodness Is Stronger than Evil



Good - ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

# Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

· Liturgical Text and Music © Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by Permission. Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License # SAS006668.

-*Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* Text from *An African Prayer Book* selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by Desmond Tutu. Use by permission of Doubleday, div. of Random House, Inc., and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, 1350 Broadway, Ste 2015, New York, NY, 10018. Music © 1996 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL, 60638. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-718995. All rights reserved.

-*Lift High the Cross* Text & Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., 380 S. Main Pl., Carol Stream, IL, 60188. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-718995. All rights reserved.



## Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

*Email: [pastorgails@aol.com](mailto:pastorgails@aol.com)*

*Office: (585) 442-1018*

*Cell : (614) 477-7863*

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry  
Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

*Welcome to worship,*

*and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.  
If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation  
or learning more about our ministries, please speak to our Pastor.*

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:  
**Invite** all people into the presence of the living God,  
**Prepare** for ministry in daily life and  
**Go** into the world as disciples*

Our Church Nursery is available for parents  
to use with their children.

**AN EASY WAY TO GIVE ~ SCAN HERE →**

*Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap on the link that pops up, and you will be taken directly to Atonement's giving website. If your phone doesn't automatically scan the code, you may need to download a QR code reader app. Many are available for free in the Google Play or Apple App store. Please contact Lindee Krapf if you have any questions.*

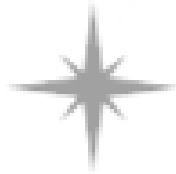


Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."*

---

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



---

Visit our web site at: **[www.atonementrochester.org](http://www.atonementrochester.org)**  
Follow us on Facebook: **[fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/](https://www.facebook.com/atonementlutheranchurch/)**  
Contact us via Email: **[office@atonementrochester.org](mailto:office@atonementrochester.org)**  
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**  
Church Office hours: **Tues~Wed~Thurs 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**