

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58th Avenue

Vero Beach, Florida, 32966

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est. 1986

Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

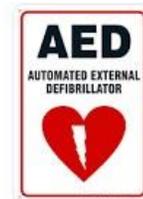
Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information

email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com

mobile phone: 610.295.9774

In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms



Sunday, January 29th, 2023
Service of Holy Communion
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ *Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY *Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.*

ALL SING **“Day of Peace”**
 See back of bulletin p. 14

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...



+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

+ P: In the name of the Father, and of
the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.
 Our hearts have turned away from you.
 For the sake of the world you so love,
 forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another
 for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Thus says our God:
 “The former things have come to pass
 and new things I now declare.”
 God’s mercy makes us new.
 We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.
 C: **Amen.**

+ENTRANCE HYMN *“Standing on the Promises”*
See back of bulletin p. 15

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

+KYRIE

Kyrie

Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen

Dm A7 Dm Gm Dm A7 Dm

Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.

9 F C Gm7 Asus4 A A7

Je - sus Christ, have mer - cy: we__ ask for your for - giv - ness.

14 Dm A7 Dm Gm Dm A7 Dm

Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*The assembly prays together. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*)

C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “weariied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Micah.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 15

Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from 1st Corinthians.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able as we welcome the gospel among us.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
all these things shall be added unto you
Alleluia!

Verse 2

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word that proceeds And
From the mouth of God Alleluia!

Verse 3

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Alleluia!

+ GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The gospel is announced...

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading may be concluded:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Guide Us Ever Great Redeemer”*
ELW # 618

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 OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are said responsively. The worship leader follows each petition with these or similar words: “God of grace”. The assembly follows with “**Hear our prayer**”.*

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

During the prayers, other intercessions may be offered. The Presiding Minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words...

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated for the reception of new members, and a Laying on of Hands.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The Presiding Minister welcomes those being received into the congregation.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Presiding Minister offers words of healing, and a blessing to the entire assembly gathered.

P: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

The Presiding Minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words...

P: Sisters and brothers in the faith, I invite you to raise your hands as a symbol of a laying on of hands for the entire assembly, and receive a message of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

The Presiding Minister offers the following reading...

PSALM 8

A Psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom.

¹ O Lord, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

² many are saying to me,

“There is no help for you^[a] in God.”

³ But you, O Lord, are a shield around me,

my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

⁴ I cry aloud to the Lord,

and he answers me from his holy hill.

⁵ I lie down and sleep;

I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.

⁶ I am not afraid of ten thousands of people

who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷ Rise up, O Lord!

Deliver me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;

you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ Deliverance belongs to the Lord;

may your blessing be on your people!

MUSICAL OFFERING *(all sing)*

“Jesus Paid it All”

See back of bulletin p. 17

The service continues with the sharing of the peace.

+THE PEACE

P: The Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples.
We look for the day when the church will shine forth
in unity at his holy supper.
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The ministers and the assembly may greet one another with a gesture of Christ's peace.
The service continues with the Offering.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates as they are passed among the assembly. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

OFFERTORY

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior C: **Amen.**

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+ PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus

Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



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.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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The Presiding Minister continues...

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

The assembly is seated...

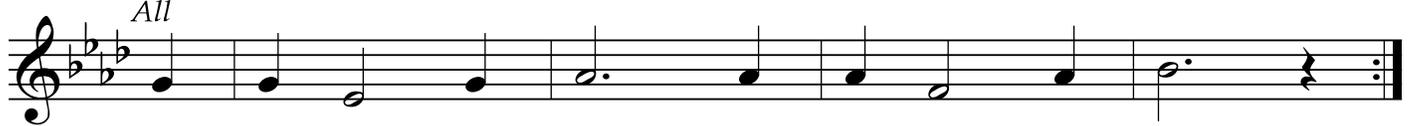
LAMB OF GOD

Cantor



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,

All



have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,

All



grant us peace, grant us peace. _____

The Sacrament is distributed.

J. Michael Joncas
Music © 1989, WLP

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and the Assisting Minister offers these words, “The blood of Christ, shed for you” each is invited to respond with “Amen.”

COMMUNION HYMN/S *“Blest are They”* *ELW #728*

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you. C: **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always. C: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements...

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand for the Sending Hymn, as you are able. ...

SENDING HYMN

*“Victory in Jesus”
see bulletin p. 19*

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

January 29, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Upside-Down Blessing

How do you know that you are blessed? Our consumer-driven culture primes us to believe blessedness is based on our bank accounts. Or perhaps we learn that we are blessed if we are in good health, or if our work is meaningful, or if our social or family lives are fulfilling. Social media hashtags depict blessing as the result of good fortune. And health, work, family, and social connection can all be good things! But the beatitudes turn our assumptions about blessedness on their head.

Jesus reminds us that instead, blessedness is our beginning. “Blessed” is our primary identity in God. We are loved and favored by God before we do anything to earn it, before the circumstances of our lives begin to define us. Our level of blessedness has nothing to do with us and everything to do with God’s abundant love and grace. This is true especially when it feels like we are anything but blessed.

We are loved, held, and brought near to God, even in our pain and sorrow and everything that makes us feel like we are less worthy, less loved, less important. In fact, it is in those places that God draws nearest to us, reminding us that we are loved and whole and worthy of blessing. Then everything we do flows from that identity of blessedness. We are freed to bless others—with our words, our actions, our whole lives. We are invited to engage the world through the upside-down lens of the kingdom of God. We are given new eyes to see God's presence in this world—not just among the important, the powerful, the popular, and the loud, but among those the world would rather ignore, disregard, or shame.

Whenever the world pronounces condemnation, God declares, "Blessed." Whenever the world excludes, God welcomes. Whenever the world scorns, mocks, or causes harm, God promises new life in the kingdom of heaven that is ever drawing near.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

Lorre Dratch: – A native of Yonkers, NY, Lorre married her high school sweetheart, John Dratch, and were married for 64 years. Together they built a life working in Rockland County, NY, and McKinney, Texas, with John working for Otis Elevator Co., and then with the JC Penny doing data processing. They have a daughter who lives and farm in upstate NY. Lorre grew up in the Roman Catholic church, and loves golf, swimming, cooking, and Mahjong. She has been friends with the Benders since they moved to Vero Beach some 25 years ago.

Peter Battaglio: Before relocating to Vero Beach last year, Pete was a lifelong resident of Hartford County, Connecticut. Known as "Propane Pete", he has invested 44 years in the propane gas industry thus far, and won countless awards for his involvement with various Home Builder Associations throughout the state. Pete is Sicilian and loves to cook.

Eric Mumford: Serving as a missionary, Pastor, Bible teacher, conference speaker, and author of numerous theological books has taken Eric to 70 nations thus far. Eric has raised 26 children to adulthood: two biological daughters, now ages 31 and 29, ten orphaned children in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, and fourteen orphaned children in Uganda, East Africa.