

CHRIST OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

37 Warner Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07305

The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn, Pastor

Church: 201-433-1836 Fax: 201-433-1865

Church email: contact.redeemerlutheranjc@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastor@christourredeemer.net

Worship Service – 9:30 AM Sundays (In-person & Online)

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4746 6449; Password: 348873

Phone: 1-646-558-8656

January 28, 2024

4th Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted that you are worshipping today at Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. May your experience with God here be a blessing!

ACCESS FOR ALL: While we stand often during the service, please assume a posture of reverence which you are able or comfortable. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located in the Parish Hall through the kitchen. If you'd like Communion brought to your seat, our Pastor will gladly assist you. Activity bulletins are available for young worshippers (see ushers or Pastor).

How do I find worship music?

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red book in your pew)

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship (the green book in your pew)

AAH - African American Heritage (the beige book in your pew)

Find us online at:

Website: <https://www.christourredeemerjc.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChristOurRedeemerJerseyCity>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/cor.jc

Have questions? Interested in baptism or membership? Please speak with our ***Pastor Kimberly Vaughn*** after service Or, call 201.433.1836.

P-Pastor C-Congregation

Prelude

Welcome

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are comfortable.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886, LBW 559)

Apostolic Greeting

P: 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

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise

A: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Front page of the *Celebrate* Insert

P: Let us pray... Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

Lessons in *Celebrate* Insert

First Reading	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalmody	Psalm 111
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Mark 1:21-28

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] 15The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 111

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (*Ps. 111:10*)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with ^l my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ^l congregation.

²**Great are your ^l works, O Lord,
pondered by all who de- ^l light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor ^l mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ^l dures forever.

**⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion. R**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**⁶You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful-ness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity. R**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures
forever. R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact 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.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a

stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(In honor of God's Good News to us in Jesus, we stand or assume a posture of reverence to receive the reading of the Gospel.)

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "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 with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children's Time

The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn

(Children are welcome to come forward for a special message.)

Sermon

The Reverend Kimberly Vaughn

Please stand as you are comfortable.

Hymn of the Day:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (ELW 504, LBW 229)

The Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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

Back page of the *Celebrate* Insert

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

MEAL

Greeting of Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(We share a sign of Christ's peace—a wave, handshake, smile, hug—however you are comfortable!)

Please be seated.

Offering & Offertory Music

(In response to hearing God's Word, we respond with joy in our offering.)

Please stand as you are comfortable.

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all, unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is who comes in the name of

the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray as Jesus taught...

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

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
Please be seated.

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: In Christ There is No East or West (ELW 650, LBW 359)

Distribution of Communion

(Please bring the communion back to your seat to eat and drink. Someone will collect the cups afterwards.)

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Canticle:

God is So Good

GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, GOD IS SO GOOD, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE CARES FOR ME, HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED, HE'S ALL I NEED HE'S SO GOOD TO ME.

P: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

Announcements

(Please see the last page.)

SENDING

Please stand as you are comfortable.

Benediction

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign (ELW 434, LBW 530)

Closing Anthem

Jesus Remember Me

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please Remember Our Sick and Shut-Ins:

Deborah Frazier	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-0707
James Gumbs	Jersey City, NJ	646-940-3464
Joe Heard, Sr.	Linden, NJ	201-725-5231
Jonathan Strong Sr.	Jersey City, NJ	551-580-5759
Juanita Larkins	North Plainfield, NJ	201-798-3460
Kate Fauder	Jersey City, NJ	201-333-5752
Kathy Connally	Jersey City, NJ	201-451-9057
Louise Givens	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-1486
Maggie Graves	Jersey City, NJ	201-434-2251
Rabone Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Sylvia Bishran	Jersey City, NJ	201-492-8108
Vernon Goolserran	Jersey City, NJ	201-432-8215
Yvonne Grant	Jersey City, NJ	973-444-2266

Worship Participants

Ministers	The People of Christ Our Redeemer
Pastor	Reverend Kimberly Vaughn
Pianist	Kim Norton
Lector	Corey Brooks
Counters	Corey Brooks and TBD
Usher	Wanda Fluellen and Ed Price

Thank you to those who assisted in today's worship.

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Our Parish Calendar

January Birthdays:

Joe B. Heard Jr.	4 th
Grayson Chiatoo	9 th
Earl Hart	12 th
Allen Reid	13 th
Martin Dunbar	19 th

January Baptismal Anniversaries:

Worship Assistants for 2/4/2024

Lector:	Joan Narain
Counters:	TBD
Usher:	Corey Brooks and Joy Griggs

Worship Assistants for 2/11/2024

Lector:	Janasia Carter
Counters:	Carla Parker and TBD
Usher:	Corey Brooks and Joy Griggs

Worship Assistants for 2/18/2024

Lector:	Toni Mabry
Counters:	Janasia Carter and TBD
Usher:	Corey Brooks and Joy Griggs

Worship Assistants for 2/25/2024

Lector:	Jameka Carter
Counters:	TBD
Usher:	Corey Brooks and Joy Griggs

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Congregational:

- *THANK YOU* to everyone who assisted with and attended Pastor Vaughn's installation service!
- *ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING* will be Sunday, February 4 after worship. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend!
- *OFFERING ENVELOPES*: We are using only 1 offering envelopes this year to replace the 2 used previously. Please note that your envelope number may have changed. See Wanda Fluellen if you don't have your envelope number.
- *ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT*: Details for an Ash Wednesday service and weekly Lenten services are coming soon. Mark your calendars for Wednesdays, beginning February 14.
- *BIBLE STUDY*: Join us each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. for study and conversation on "Daily Discipleship". See Pastor Kimberly for details.
- *HOLY BAPTISM*: If you or your child are interested in being baptized, the next "Festival of Baptism" dates will be Sunday, February 11 (Transfiguration Sunday) and March 31 (Easter Sunday). Please see Pastor Kimberly.
- *FIRST COMMUNION*: Do you have a child ready to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion? Please see Pastor Kimberly.
- *LOOSE CHANGE*: Got any spare change? Drop it in the jar after worship—all monies go towards the building fund.
- Please see page 9 for the list of upcoming worship assistants.

NJ Synod and Community:

- The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. Registration fee is \$425 through February 14th. Late fee (Feb. 15—April 15) is \$475. MYLE and tAble registration fee is \$190 (Waived restriction apply). A \$150 nonrefundable and registration fee are due at sign-up.

**125th YEAR OF WITNESS AND SERVICE TO CHRIST
THROUGH GOD'S WORD,
THE LIGHT AND THE TRUTH,
WE INVITE ALL TO GROW IN CHRIST**

† Connected to Christ † Connected to Each Other † Connected to Community