

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 31, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into God's presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God!

It is God who made us, and we are God's. Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *"How Great is Our God"* by Christ Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEmNb6NzpNg>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

P: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundance grace of God.

Holy God,

P: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME: "The Church"

SONG: "We are the Church" by Jay Beech

Chorus:

We are the church, the body of our Lord.

We are all God's children and we have been restored.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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."

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 111

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

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

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

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 faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

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

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.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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 God. 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 deities in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many deities 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. (continued on next page)

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 brothers and sisters in your community, 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.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:21-28

²¹Jesus 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 the spirit, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. 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.

SERMON: “Be Silent and Come Out” Pastor Evavold

SONG: “Everlasting God” Lincoln Brewster

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgdEsWCnkWM>



CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: “The Church’s One Foundation”

The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav’n he came to sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from ever’y nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, oen birth:
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with ev’ry grace endured.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Tree in One,
And mystic weet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav’nly chorus! Lord save us by your grace,
That we like saints before us, may see you face to face.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us offer to God both our praises and our petitions for all in need, responding to each prayer with the words “Hear us and help us.”

A brief silence.

Faithful God, we praise you for sustaining the church during this difficult time. We pray that you give to all preachers and teachers the power of your prophetic Spirit, that their words will proclaim the comfort and challenge of Christ. Lead to yourself all those who have become captive to false prophets and empty promises; free them and embrace them in your mercy. O faithful God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Bountiful God, we praise you for continuously creating the earth and nourishing its creatures. We pray that you restore lands and waters that have been harmed by human misuse. Raise up advocates for an ecological way of life, and guide us toward an appropriate use of government in preserving the earth’s natural resources. O bountiful God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Ruling God, we praise you for an inauguration and the days following that were free from violence and marked by hope. We pray that you give wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, to political parties, and to grassroots organizers, that in all things they endeavor to serve the common good. Guide our nation out of the ways of prejudice and into equality and justice for all. O ruling God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Compassionate God, we praise you for each day of health and well-being, and we pray for all who are sick or suffering. Comfort those with mental illness or emotional distress. We praise you for the development of COVID-19 vaccines, and we pray for their fair and prompt distribution. Increase in our land a commitment to limit contagion to others. Visit all who have contracted the coronavirus and all who are experiencing the long-term effects of COVID-19. Strengthen medical workers and home health aides. Receive our prayers for those we name before you: . . .

Diane Cook and Family, Kathy Myers, John Ario, the Tomaich Family,

A brief silence.

O compassionate God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Reconciling God, we praise you for your Spirit of wisdom and concord. We pray for all who make ethical decisions, whether in homes, in churches, or in societies. Keep families from quarreling over which foods to eat. Instruct us when to preserve the past and when to institute change, when to maintain our own preferences and when to yield to others. O reconciling God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Gracious God, we give you praise for your continuous untold blessings, and we offer you now the petitions of our own hearts.

A longer period of silence.

O gracious God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Eternal God, we praise you for your servants of time past whose words and actions have inspired our lives. We mourn those who have died of Covid-19. Unite us with all our beloved dead now through our memories and at the end of time in your presence. O eternal God, we pray:

Hear us and help us.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your loving care, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: 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.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *“Build your Kingdom Here”* by Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbdJXKqVgtg>

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.

Please join the ANNUAL MEETING ON ZOOM – opens for online access at 11:45am

AFTER THOUGHTS
January 31, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Could He Be the Only One?

Who: Jesus, disciples, observant go-to-worship folks honoring the sabbath. And, yes, a man with an unclean spirit. (Could he be the only such soul in the congregation?)

What: Reading holy words, the domain of scribes and scholars, and a shocking teaching given "with authority."

Where: In the synagogue.

When: On the sabbath.

Who is this one who cried out in the congregation? Was he a scared thief creeping from his hiding place? A lanky kid exhausted from bawling outside locked doors? An old man gasping beneath piles of ill-gotten wealth? A young woman cursing heaven by day and hell by night for reasons no one dares to name? A stumbling fugitive worn down by a lifetime of running? A robust profiteer, master of deception? An unjust judge solemnly wearing a robe woven from threads of secret favors? A miser in a mansion perched above slums? A hoarder of vengeance nursing metastasized hatreds? Have you seen, met, or known any of these among the congregation?

The one with an unclean spirit cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" (Mark 1:24). Jesus silences the unclean spirit. But Jesus will not be the destroyer. The crucified one does not crucify. He does not build and fill prisons; he sets free. He does not shun, avoid, and send away; he calls the accursed to himself. He does not condemn the sinner; he rescues and saves.

Yes, they in the synagogue that day and we in the church this day are amazed. Jesus' teaching with authority contradicts all the rules that anchor us to a spirit of despair. Good news, indeed.

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