

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*



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ELW Service of the Word

St. Paul Lutheran Church—January 31, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

### **Introduction to the day**

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

### **PRELUDE**

*Voluntary VIII*

*Dearest Jesus, At Your Word*

G. F. Handel

J. S. Bach

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts.  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,  
we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you  
with our whole heart;  
we have not loved  
our neighbors as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,  
loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive  
together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of +Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God  
strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts  
through faith. **Amen.**

## Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

## 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.**

## 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.**

## 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:] <sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This 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." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But 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."

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



The fear of the LORD is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

Psalm 111:10

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- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- <sup>2</sup>**Great are your | works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**
- <sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- <sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;  
you are gracious and full | of compassion. R**
- <sup>5</sup>You give food to | those who fear you,  
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power | of your works  
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**
- <sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;  
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- <sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
because they are done in | truth and equity. R**
- <sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;  
holy and awesome | is your name.
- <sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures 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.*

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

<sup>4</sup>Hence, 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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as in fact there are many gods and many lords – <sup>6</sup>yet 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.

<sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For 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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from setting 3)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and 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.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They 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.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - uity.  
 pre - cious in your sight.  
 hill to val - ley flow.  
 king - dom with - out end.

## 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 OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests, and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials, and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need, especially those on our prayer list and those whose names we offer now...for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For those who have departed this physical world, especially our dear Elaine Starrett and all others whose names we offer now..., let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

### THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

SOLO

*Prayer of the Norwegian Child*

Richard Kountz

### OFFERTORY SONG

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav' n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost."

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
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### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,  
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,  
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,  
proclaiming to us your wisdom  
and inviting us to follow your call.  
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,  
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,  
and revived the brokenhearted.  
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we  
may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.  
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **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.**

#### **BLESSING**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you,  
that your lives may be a light to the world.  
And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS SENDING HYMN**

*Son of God, Eternal Savior*

ELW 655

## Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Gude en Nieuwe Hollandsche Boerenliedjes en Coustdansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

DISMISSAL  
POSTLUDE

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Marcel Dupré

## **WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:**

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Luther Zeigler

Reader: Deb Coull

Cantor and Soloist: Carolyn Stowell

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

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## **NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR RIGHT AFTER THE SERVICE**

A short, social gathering will be held on Zoom immediately after the service. If you want to participate, just stay signed on to Zoom and Luther will join just as soon as the postlude concludes. Our hope is that this will be a way to interact on Sunday mornings beyond our shared worship. It may not be a real coffee hour, but we'll make it fun!

### **BE A PART OF THE "HISTORY EVENT" ON SATURDAY, FEB. 6!**

The first major step in our work toward calling a new pastor is to participate in a church-wide "history event" that reflects on our past. The event will be held on Zoom on **Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10 a.m. to Noon**. In preparation for this event, we'd like you to think about the following questions:

- What decade did you first become active in the life of the congregation?
- What was happening during this decade in the world, in religion in general, in the community, and within our congregation?

Our time together will start with a large group welcome and explanation of how the process works, then we'll break into small breakout groups to talk about what was happening during the decade in which you became active in the life of the congregation. Input from each group will be compiled into one report that reflects our collective memory of our journey together! Please complete the following Google Form before the event: <https://forms.gle/J3eLpMr5kJUaNkqL8>

### **PRAYER LISTS**

**Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week:** Heidi H., Pastor O., Roger K., Dan W., Caitlin G., Elaine V., Andrew G., Hope L., Amy P., Alane B., Daneen R., Sonny M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Willy G., Jim W., Brian D., Ron M., Judith O., Rachael and Tyler, Verna

### **Remembrance**

Please keep Elaine Starrett in your prayers. She passed away on Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, in the company of her family. May she rest in peace and may all who loved her also find peace.

**Armed services:** Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

**Please see the FYI emails for more information**