

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It is our prayer that this will be a time of worship and renewal for you, when you will encounter the living God revealed in Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

As we gather . . . 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 trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps 111:1-4)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who stretches out the heavens,
who sends light to the nations,
who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

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

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

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

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

GATHERING SONG "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (verses 1-3) ELW 886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS (PSALM 111)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**You, God, are known for your wonderful deeds—
your mercy, forgiveness, and love.**

You have shown us the power of your works time and time again.

**And yet, we are slow to comprehend; we refuse to acknowledge your gifts;
we act self-sufficient, as if we provide ourselves everything we need,
when we know in our hearts that you are the author of life.**

Prayer continues in silence

Forgive us, we pray.

**As we confess our sins, in thought, word and deed,
may your redemptive presence flood our lives
that we may praise your name forevermore. Amen**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever

because they are done in truth and equity.

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

God's praise endures forever. Glory to God! Amen.

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (verses 4&6) ELW 886

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

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 (Deuteronomy)

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe
into your radiant presence and
continually reveal your Son as our Saviour.

**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 Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 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.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 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. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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.”

God's story, your story.
Thanks be to God!

"Yours, Lord, is the Glory" (vs 1&4) ELW 849



Tu - ya es la glo - ria, la hon - ra tam - bién;
Yours, Lord, is the glo - ry, and hon - or as well;

Glo - ry in the high - est, and on earth as well.



tu - ya pa - ra siem - pre. A - mén, a - mén.
yours, Lord, now and al - ways.

Glo - ry, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN of the DAY "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" (vs 1&3) ELW 843



Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

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 THE PEOPLE

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, saying **Have mercy, O God.**

Holy God, we pray for all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: teachers, pastors, deacons and lay leaders, and for the church and its ministries. That the good news of the gospel be boldly proclaimed through the power of your Holy Spirit, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, we pray for all that you've created: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those given the task of protecting our natural resources. That we may be wise stewards of all we've been given, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, we pray for governments and leaders, and all those in positions of authority, and we pray for healthcare workers and all essential frontline workers. That they and all who deal with COVID on a daily basis be given strength and courage to continue to serve, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, we lift up those living with COVID, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry, those who are homeless, those who are sick, and all in any need, especially Sharla, Debi, Renee, Marion, Arne, Eva, Olai and Suzy, Dave and Trudy, Lyle and Marlene, Olivia, Syd, Pastor Dick and Jan, Corrie, Patrick, Klaus, Shirley, Eowyn, Catherine, Grace, Lilian, Margaret, Clayton, Montgomery, Rosemary, Landon, Shellene, Elizabeth, Judy and Ron, and Miriam. That you surround them and fill them with your light and love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Holy God, we give thanks for this community of faith, and pray for all who call Good Shepherd home, especially Lori Fromm and Wilf and Joan Giese. We ask your blessing on the ministry of Creative Fingers, and on all who prepared and led us in worship this week. That we may answer your call to follow you, Jesus, and serve you with joy, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, we give thanks for the covenant you made with us in the waters of baptism.
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING (Deuteronomy 18, Psalm 111)

Jesus comes to us, offering healing and hope,
Speaking and acting with authority.
Listen to him.
Go into this world, confident in God's love and healing power.
Go in peace and may God's love and peace always be with you. Amen

SENDING SONG "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" ELW 538

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta, es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do, a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

SENDING

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God. We will.

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