

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany / Lectionary 4, Year B

Before Announcements - ELW 665 *Rise, Shine, You People!*

Announcements

After Announcements - *How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art* - Tomlin/Cash/Reeves

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

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.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, your sins are washed away
and you are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, you are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness, you are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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

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 anymore, 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.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111 (prayed responsively)

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

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

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

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

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You 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 pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**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.**

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 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

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 our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - ELW 518 *We Eat the Bread of Teaching*

The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us profess our faith praying the words of The Apostle's Creed.

Prayers of Intercession

P: 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.

A: 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.

A: For all God's works in creation and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

A: 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.**

A: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, for caregivers, and all in any need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

A: For First Evangelical Lutheran Church Community that the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in our Annual meeting, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

A: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

P: 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.**

Music - ELW 178 *Hear Our Prayer* (2 times through)

Offering Prayer

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us:

like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.

Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service

to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

Music ELW 481 "Come to the Table"

Note: We will sing 2 times (Invitation/bread...sing once...wine...sing again).

Prayer after Communion

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.

Send us forth from this banquet

nourished in body and in spirit

to proclaim your good news

and serve others in your name.

Amen.

Blessing

God the creator, strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

Music - ELW 856 "*How Great Thou Art*"

Dismissal

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