

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Worship 9:00 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake
God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE *

OPENING HYMN* *"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"*
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

ELW #807

Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

APOSTOLIC 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 *

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.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON: 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 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."

The Word of the Lord. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 111 (read 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 delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures 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 forever 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 faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They 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.

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

SECOND LESSON: 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. ***Response: Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *

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

GOSPEL * Mark 1:21-29

The holy gospel according to St. Mark. ***Response: 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 our Lord. ***Response: Praise to you, O Christ.***

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY * *“O Word of God Incarnate”*
 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
 we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
 a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;
 and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.
 It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
 mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold
 to bear before the nations your true light as of old;
 oh, teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
 till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

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 * *Response: Have mercy, O God.*

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.

Sending

BLESSING * *Response: Amen, Amen, Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN * *“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart ”*

ELW #800

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no opening skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart and strength and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heaven-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

DISMISSAL *

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus, the Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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*We again welcome back Mitchell Sensenig to our organ console
this morning and thank him for providing our music.*

We also thank Dawne Veet for being our reader and vocalist this morning.

Your 2021 offering envelopes are now in your church mailbox ready for you to pick up. **Please note:** a few people have different envelope numbers than they had in 2020.

Manna Food Pantry – Our “2nd Sunday” food collection is still ongoing. During the winter, around the holidays and during this time of the pandemic food pantries are seeing a greater demand of their services. If you would like to make a donation you may bring your items into the church & place them on the table in the Narthex at any time. If you are not comfortable with coming into the church building we would be happy to offer "curbside drop-off" during regular office hours. Pastor Joel & Barb are keeping their regular hours during this current shut-down. Just let us know & will be happy to come out & get your donation from you. Thank you.

COVID Task Force will be meeting this Wednesday, February 3rd via Zoom starting at 6:30pm. The Zoom invite to all task force members will be sent to you via e-mail early this week.

Help us keep an updated prayer list. If you have placed an individual on our prayer list, please remember to notify the office when that individual can be removed. Thank you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bob McIntyre, Tom & Wendy Snyder, Linda Freed, Pastor Joel and his family, Ed Digon (Malane's husband), Musser family (Carol Ranck's in-laws), Ann Wolf, Diane Trullinger (friend of Marcia Schreffler), Cheryl Digon (Ed & Malane Digon's daughter-in-law), Lorraine Brubaker (friend of Nancy Pinko), Kathy (friend of Andrea Faber), Carol Ranck, Alexa Phillips (Ed & Malane Digon's granddaughter), John Digon (Ed Digon's brother), Doris Balas, Linda Freed, Kelly Utter, Andrew H. (Carol Ranck's cousin), Daniel Barbuscio (Dottie Koppenhaver's son), Gertrude Gassner (friend of Merle Beachell), Julianna Stoner (friend of Eva Kunz), Linda Schreier, Chuck Walker (friend of Nadine & Otis Martin), Pastor Chuck & Shelley Lisse, Katie Nanov- Schwehr (Irene Nanov's daughter), Bruce MacMurtrie (brother of Hope Bowling), Kathy Dare, Bob Sheetz (Bill's brother), Lisa McManuels, Patsy Baumann, Linda Brittelli (Tara Beachtel's step-mom), Lee Wheeler (friend of Kathy Dare), Makwan Sayed (friend of the Flemings), Christy Silvers (friend of Nedda Pollock), Helen Kester (friend of Malane Digon), Veronika Lenker (friend of the Flemings), Candy Evans, Millie Horvath, Romaine Leedy (Marion Tosheff's sister), Veronica Malesic (Mindy Grace's mother-in-law), Jesse (neighbor of Kathy Dare), Michael Zorek (Mindy Grace & Melanie Trea's brother), Corine Harold (friend of Kathy Dare), Joe Newman (friend of Kathy Dare), Pastor Sharron Blezard (assistant to the Bishop), Betty Giovaninello (friend of Linda Schreier), Don Bolonif (friend of Kathy Dare), Sondra Andrews (Bob & Jean Lisse's daughter), Marsha Randel (Bob McIntyre's cousin), Connie Johnson, Barbara Hammell (Betty's daughter), Bob & Jean Lisse, Kenly Underkufler (relative of Tom & Wendy Snyder), Vernel Brown (friend of the Flemings), Bishop Dunlop.

Pray for missionaries, especially Tonya Starner in Mongolia.

Pray for our military, especially Ian Bowling, Jason Nunez, Noel Sanchez & George Schreffler, III .

Pray for our shut-ins, especially Shirley Kaltreider, Diane Lehrman, Irene Nanov, Miriam Reinard, Ellavene Rutter, Alta Shadel, George Sheleman, Tom & Wendy Snyder.

Prayer of Remembrance for Terri Shadel and condolences to the Shadel & Wass families.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, a caring congregation dedicated to the word of Christ welcomes all people to worship and grow with us as we share His love and salvation with our neighbors, our children and ourselves.