Trinity Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021
All Services

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/WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (stand)
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.
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, 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. 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:] 15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16 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.” 17 Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 18 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. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20 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. Thanks be to God.
Psalm: Psalm 111

1 Hallelujah! 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.

3 Majesty 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.

5 You 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.

7 The 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.

9 You 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 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—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.

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
The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.
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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Elise Anderson

HOD

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

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 CHURCH
Pastor: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.
**AM:** 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, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**AM:** 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, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**AM:** 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, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**AM:** 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; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**AM:** 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. Especially do we lift up to you... Karen Porter (Harold Humphries), Laurie Roe (online visitor), Melinda Roy (Pastor Anderson), Robert Burns (Carol Hayde), Shawn & Mark (Marlene Hiltunen), Katy Allison, Bruce & Amy Annear (Fran Balsis), Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel), Scott Baily (Fran Balsis), Alice Barnett, Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart), Bill Balsis, Bonnie Bean (James Craig), Mary Blackburn, Theresa Bowman, Josie Boyd, Jan Buck,
Sandy Buelow, Martha Caldwell……and those we name in our hearts and out loud before you now...Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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.

PEACE (stand)
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER (stand)
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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations, in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord**  
**God of pow’r and might:**  
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.  
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died.  Christ is risen.  Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. 

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. 

**Amen**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: 
**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**
Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed. **Thanks be to God. (sit)**

**COMMUNION BLESSING (remain seated)**
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(remain seated)*

_A - Let us pray together:_ 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING *(stand)*

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

DISMISSAL: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Go in peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - The Sunday morning Bible study ZOOM meets at 10:30 am and is now reading Exodus. Contact Herb Burhenn if you wish to be added to the invitation list.

**QUILTERS** – In an effort to social-distance, encourage new members, and allow ample opportunity for quilting, the quilting room will now be open EACH Thursday at 9:00 am for members to drop in and assist with projects. The room will remain open until approximately 3:00 pm each week.

**OWLS** - Bible Study will meet via ZOOM on **Tuesday, February 2**, at 10:00 am. Please contact Herb Burhenn (886-4167 or Herbert-Burhenn@utc.edu) if you wish to be added to the invitation list.

**RONALD MCDONALD QUILTING WORKSHOP** - This year's event will be held on Saturday, **February 20**, from 10:00-2:00, in the Paul George Room. Kits are provided to make snuggle quilts for patients at the Erlanger Children's Hospital while they reside with their families at the house. Our goal is 12 quilts. All supplies needed will be on hand. Don't be intimidated by "quilting". No quilting skills are needed. Those with sewing experience and machines are welcomed but also needed are runners, ironers and knot-tyers. **Attendees will social-distance and wear masks; work tables will be 6 feet apart.** Bring a snack. Coffee and water will be provided. Please call Ginny Minninger at 332-0227 to sign up or if you have questions. Lend your hands to this worthy project while you get to know fellow members better.

**OFFERING BOOKLETS** – Our 2021 offering booklets have arrived and are safely spread out in the chapel.