

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | January 31st, 2021
In-Person Reader: Emily Onken | Online Reader: Jordyn Berg

Announcements

- We are excited to begin in-person worship again! Please let us know if you plan on attending in-person by calling the church office
 - You'll notice a repetition in hymns throughout Epiphany. This is our way of trying to learn something new -- as any teacher will tell you: repetition is key!
- Confirmation and Wednesday Education will be meeting in-person on Wednesday!
- The February countywide food distribution will be on the 10th from 2:00 - 3:30 at First Lutheran Church in Le Sueur. Please share!

Confession + 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, 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.**

Gathering Hymn | Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520

Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;

Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you

As the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.*

*Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
That our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.*

*Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most: all your gospel's consolation
While we here on earth await 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

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.**

Children's Message

First Reading | Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] The Lord your God will raise up a prophet like me from your community, from your fellow Israelites. He's the one you must listen to. That's exactly what you requested from the Lord your God at Horeb, on the day of the assembly, when you said, "I can't listen to the Lord my God's voice anymore or look at this great fire any longer. I don't want to die!"

The Lord said to me: What they've said is right. I'll raise up a prophet for them from among their fellow Israelites—one just like you. I'll put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. I myself will hold accountable anyone who doesn't listen to my words, which that prophet will speak in my name. However, any prophet who

arrogantly speaks a word in my name that I haven't commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.

Psalm 111

Praise the Lord! I thank the Lord with all my heart in the company of those who do right, in the congregation.

The works of the Lord are magnificent; they are treasured by all who desire them.

God's deeds are majestic and glorious. God's righteousness stands forever.

God is famous for his wondrous works. The Lord is full of mercy and compassion.

God gives food to those who honor him. God remembers his covenant forever.

God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations.

God's handiwork is honesty and justice; all God's rules are trustworthy—

they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.

God sent redemption for his people; God commanded that his covenant last forever. Holy and awesome is God's name!

Fear of the Lord is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws.

God's praise lasts forever!

***Gospel Acclamation** [online]

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel Reading | Mark 1:21-28**

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.

Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts. Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God."

“Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!” Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

ELW 314

*Arise, your light has come! The Spirit’s call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive’s liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God’s pow’r will make us strong.*

***Apostles’ Creed**

Let us confess our faith using the words of 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.

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 Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, Ron Germsheid, and Teri Knish, as well as the family and friends of Gordy Ellanson Jr., 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.**

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.**

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.**

***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.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

***Final Blessing**

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

Sending Hymn | *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

ELW 671

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,

Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

***Dismissal**

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