



January 31, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

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

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

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.

Live Stream via
facebook.com/salcwausau
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111

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.**

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, 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.” Indeed, 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. It 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. “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. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For 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? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Arise Your Light Has Come”

The gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and 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.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They 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.” At 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

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

APOSTLE’S CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response is:

...let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

PEACE

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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

BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

vs. 3 & 4

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us. **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Pr. Jenn Collins

Pr. Justin Smoot

Al Freiberg - Pianist

Liz Hans - Vocalist

Terri Wiederhoeft - Layreader

Technical Support

Troy Radtke

Travis Puig

Joel Freiberg

Bob Wiederhoeft

Altar Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God by Doreen Radloff and Family in memory of Bill Radloff.

JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



Jesus casts out unclean spirits.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue
Monday	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	A new prophet like Moses
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Love builds up others
Wednesday	Acts 16:16-40	Paul and Silas in prison
Thursday	Exodus 15:22-27	Bitter water made sweet
Friday	1 John 4:1-6	Testing the spirits
Saturday	Psalms 111	Praise for God's wonderful works
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

They 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." **Mark 1:27 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, lead us to trust in your reign of justice and mercy that heals the wounded and lifts up the lowly through Jesus Christ, the Holy One of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Loving God, help us to be mindful of your goodness, including this gift of food. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy One of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, give you faith, hope, and love.



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JANUARY 31, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

God, Whose Almighty Word



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time you were jealous.
- How is the feeling of jealousy harmful to you and others?
- What difference does it make that Jesus has power over unclean spirits (like jealousy) in our lives?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:21-28.

In the Gospel of Mark, this is Jesus' first recorded act in public ministry. It sets the direction and tone for Mark, and it is a doozy. In our modern world where data and verifiable research is relied on more than speaking about spirits—unclean or not—the narrative can lead to many understandable questions. However, the conclusion is clear: Jesus speaks and acts with an authority not experienced by the people in the Capernaum synagogue. All the people were amazed. The unclean spirits know who Jesus is, the Holy One of God. In Jesus' kingdom, such knowledge is not enough. He silences the unclean spirits. Jesus will be gathering followers like Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John (vv. 14-20) who will worship, serve, and place their trust in Jesus. He comes with the message and authority of God. Jesus presents the reign of God that breaks down barriers. He brings God's purity and holiness to people and places not reached before. It's the ministry and the message that will not be silenced. Jesus brought life-changing experiences to the people. What life-changing experience have you had?

Pray: **Almighty God, help us to witness to and be followers of your reign of love, reconciliation, and healing through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

In 1 Corinthians 8, it was not good enough that people had the right information, even the right understanding of the Christian faith. They needed to act out of love because "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." Think of someone with whom you have differing opinions. Pray that you may be able to see beyond your differences and reach out to the other person with a spirit of love and a listening ear.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

February 2 is the Church festival day for the "Presentation of the Lord." The festival recalls that forty days after his birth, Jesus was presented at the temple in Jerusalem. This festival is also known as "Candlemas" because of the tradition of blessing candles for use throughout the coming year. This is associated with Simeon's words about Jesus being "a light to reveal God to the nations." Choose a new candle to light and use this year as part of your devotions.

Then end with this prayer: **Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus as a bright light in our lives. Bless us as we gather around this candle this year. May it remind us that Jesus is with us. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org