

Worship in the Home

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

January 31, 2021



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ.

While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn:

This Is My Father's World

ELW #824



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

Psalm 111

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

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You 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.

⁶You 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.

⁸They 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.

¹⁰The 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

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

²¹Jesus 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 the spirit, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. 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.

Homily

Reflection

There are indeed, right now, false prophets, people who mislead and betray others by what they say, pretending to speak in God's name. We too, as Paul says, can use our religious knowledge to hurt others. How can the fire and the voice of the living God save us from this misuse of religion? Listen. Jesus' teaching ministry begins in an importantly strange way in Mark's Gospel. Nothing is said of what he actually teaches. And he oddly silences the unclean spirit who knows who he is. Religious knowledge is already being re-worked. In Mark that silence continues through the whole Gospel until at last Jesus is finally silenced on the cross. But this crucified Jesus is risen, and by the power of the Spirit he comes to our assemblies and to our homes. He is himself the new teaching, the promised prophet, the fire and voice of God in a way we can encounter. In him God knows us. And the word of this Holy One of God does heal us and turn us in kindness and care toward the others around us.

Hymn of the Day:

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

ELW#634



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
- 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
- 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
- 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us offer to God both our praises and our petitions for all in need.

Faithful God, we praise you for sustaining the church during this difficult time. We pray that you give to all preachers and teachers the power of your prophetic Spirit, that their words will proclaim the comfort and challenge of Christ. Lead to yourself all those who have become captive to false prophets and empty promises; free them and embrace them in your mercy. O faithful God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Bountiful God, we praise you for continuously creating the earth and nourishing its creatures. We pray that you restore lands and waters that have been harmed by human misuse. Raise up advocates for an ecological way of life, and guide us toward an appropriate use of government in preserving the earth's natural resources. O bountiful God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Ruling God, we praise you for leaders who turn away from violence and toward hope. We pray that you to give wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, to political parties, and to grassroots organizers, that in all things they endeavor to serve the common good. Guide our nation out of the ways of prejudice and into equality and justice for all. O ruling God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Compassionate God, we praise you for each day of health and well-being, and we pray for all who are sick or suffering. Comfort those with mental illness or emotional distress, those institutionalized, or living on the streets, or residing alone at home. We praise you for the development of COVID-19 vaccines, and we pray for their fair and prompt distribution. Increase in our land a commitment to limit contagion to others. Visit all who have contracted the coronavirus and all who are experiencing the long-term effects of COVID-19. Strengthen medical workers and home health aides. Receive our prayers for those we name before you: . . . O compassionate God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Reconciling God, we praise you for your Spirit of wisdom and concord. We pray for all who make ethical decisions, whether in homes, in churches, or in societies. Keep families from quarreling. Instruct us when to preserve the past and when to institute change, when to maintain our own preferences and when to yield to others. O reconciling God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Gracious God, we give you praise for your continuous untold blessings, and we offer you now the petitions of our own hearts. O gracious God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Eternal God, we praise you for your servants of time past whose words and actions have inspired our lives. We mourn those who have died of Covid-19. Unite us with all our beloved dead now through our memories and at the end of time in your presence. O eternal God, we pray: **Hear us and help us.**

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your loving care, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW #632



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Benediction

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

Join us on Zoom for Fellowship immediately following the postlude.

Login ID: 596-621-1441

Passcode: 8675309

Worship & Music will meet via Zoom tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Committee people, if you haven't sent Lori via email your 2020 Year End Reports, List of Committee people, and 2021 Goals; please get them to Lori by **Sunday, February 7.**

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organist – Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Local Needs*”

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Donna Gearhart, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Audrey Hite, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns:, Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Vivian Beach, Marsha Bookhammer, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Mary Creps, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Donna Gearhart, Vinnie Gunning, Erika Hallam, Dan Hershberger, Marilyn Horton, Joan Housel, Amber Itle, Jenny, James Kelly, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Rick McIntyre, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, Paul Ruth, Pstr. Scott Schul, Barbara Smith, Bill Stahl, Luther Steele, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Specialist Training in the Army: Nathan Smith

Schedule

Sunday 9:30 AM Worship Livestream on Facebook followed by fellowship on Zoom

Monday, Friday 9 AM Hymn Devotion

Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM & 9 PM Morning & Night Prayer

Wednesday 7 PM Holden Evening Prayer followed by bible study After on Zoom

Book Discussion

Coming up in late February, we'll discuss the book "Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague" by Geraldine Brooks. This historical fiction novel concerns a 17th century English village and their response to an outbreak of Plague--timely as we continue to handle our own pandemic. As this is a little longer than our recent books, you may want to grab it now and get started; discussion will be at the end of next month.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 35:1-10. **Tuesday** (Presentation of Our Lord) Luke 2:22-40. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865) Jeremiah 29:1-14. **Thursday** Psalm 147:1-11, 20c. **Friday** (commemoration of the Martyrs of Japan, 1597) 1 Corinthians 9:1-16. **Saturday** Isaiah 46:1-13. **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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