



Sunday, January 31, 2021  
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

## Welcome to Worship and Announcements

### Prelude

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

Pastor: 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.

### **Congregation: Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,

**C 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.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn: "God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW 673**



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.

Public Domain

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

**\*Greeting:**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day:**

**All 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.**

**Kidsword:** Pastor Jerry O'Neal

\*Please stand as you are able.

## Our first reading is from Deuteronomy 18:15-20

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[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."

L Word of God. Word of life. C Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 111:** (Read responsively between Lector and Congregation.)

- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- <sup>2</sup>**Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.**
- <sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.
- <sup>4</sup>**You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.**
- <sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.**
- <sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.
- <sup>8</sup>**They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.**
- <sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.
- <sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

## Our Second reading is from 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

\*Please stand as you are able.

<sup>4</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>“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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>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.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**\*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.*

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>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.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:** – Pastor Jerry O’Neal

\*Hymn of the Day: "We Have Seen the Lord" ELW 869

Leader

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.*  
We have seen the Lord.

*Ni - me - mwo - na*  
God is might - y,  
God is low - ly,  
God is gra - cious,

Assembly

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.*  
We have seen the Lord.

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.*  
God is pow - er - ful.  
God is mer - ci - ful.  
God is won - der - ful.

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.*  
We have seen the Lord.

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa -*  
We have seen the

*Ni - me - mwo - na Bwa - na.*  
We have seen the Lord.

*na, a - na - pe - nde - za.*  
Lord, God with us, Je - sus Christ.

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Jeff Sartain, b. 1962  
 Music: Tanzanian tune; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Tr. and arr. © 2003 Concordia Publishing House

NIMEMWONA BWANA  
 Irregular

One License: A-727907

**\*Apostles' Creed:**

**P&C 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:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)

L For our prayers today, I will conclude each petition with "let us pray," and your response is, "Have mercy, O God."

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

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 for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, to those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those who are watching our recorded online services, 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.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

**\*Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**Offering:**

If you would like to give electronically, you may

1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Store or Apple Play, or
2. Go to our website [www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com](http://www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com) and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

**Offering Music:** "For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. by John Rutter

**\*Offering Prayer:**

L 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.

C **Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer:**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. (Lord's Prayer)

**All 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 Call and Response:**

L God's work!

C **Our hands!**

L God's love!

C **Our hearts!**

L God's story!

C **Our voices!**

**\*Benediction:**

P "Barocha" - Michael Card

C **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" ELW 655**



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

Public Domain

**\*Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

## Announcements for January 31, 2021

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week of January 31 - February 6, 2021:**

#### Birthdays:

January 31 – Richard Lewellen

February 1 – Sarah Wagner

February 2 – Linda Cougill

February 3 – Jessica Cummings

February 6 – Magnolia Raef

#### Anniversaries:

No anniversaries on record.

#### **This week's Prayers:** Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Ted Peterson, Dawn-Marie Oberly's father

Denise Amschler

Those who are infected with the COVID-19 Coronavirus and the frontline workers who are caring for them.

#### **2021 Offering Envelopes:**

Your 2021 Offering Envelopes may be picked up at the church in the vestibule by the front doors. Since the vestibule is unlocked you may pick up your envelopes at your convenience. If you would like offering envelopes and you can't find a set with your name on them, please contact Jenni in the office at 765-282-0619.

#### **A Reminder to Thrivent Members:**

Please remember to direct your 2020 Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31 by logging in at Thrivent.com. Thanks to Thrivent and its clients, Holy Trinity has received \$1,529 Choice Dollars ® grant funds since January 1, 2020 and Project Stepping Stone has received \$624. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Walker (765) 212- 2307. Thank you.

