



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 31, 2021

Prelude

Hymn: Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure

Lutheran Service Book 533

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OFFERING OF CONFESSION

P: The Apostle Paul tells us that what is most essential in our conduct as Christians is not knowledge, but love. And that what we know is less important than our being known by God. So, we confess...

P: The times when we have used knowledge in ways which put people down rather than build them up.

C: God, source of all knowledge, forgive us.

P: When we see people being exploited because of lack of knowledge, and do nothing.

C: God, source of all goodness, forgive us.

P: When we have idolized knowledge at the expense of loving and caring for others.

C: God, source of all love, forgive us.

P: When we have ridiculed others for having a weak and feeble faith because they appear to lack wisdom ;

C: God, source of all wisdom, forgive us.

(A time of silence for personal confession)

C: Forgive us, O God, for seeing good only in what we understand and accept as your truths. Remind us of Paul's words 'If I have all knowledge but do not have love, I am nothing.' Touch us, teach us, heal us and make us newly aware of your love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GIFT OF ABSOLUTION

P: Hear and believe these words of grace: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. And so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are loved, we are forgiven! In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

C: Thanks be to God!

COLLECT

P: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

P: We greet one another in the peace of the Lord.

You are welcome to greet each other as forgiven brothers and sisters in Jesus, in your homes and in our chat, or send a text to someone you know sharing the peace of Jesus is for them.

READINGS

A Reading from Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵ The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”

¹⁷ The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

8 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “We all possess knowledge.” But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God.

⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world “and that “There is no God but one.” ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

⁷ But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: The Holy Gospel according St. Mark, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Song: Living Hope

SERMON

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: Son of God, Eternal Savior

Lutheran Service Book 842

PRAYERS

A: Lord in Your mercy

C: **Hear our prayer.**

P: In deepest gratitude, we pray,

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Song: Blessings

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thompson

Music: Gundermann Family, Bruce Anderson, Jim Radtke and John Schonebaum

Lector: Dale Trapp

Children's Message: Danielle Critchley

Production: Dan Savard

Music | Liturgy:

Hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*

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