



*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville  
Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon*

*The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 2021*

## Service of the Word

**Significance of the Day:** In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

### *Gathering*

Prelude

Variations on *Azmon*

(Long et al)

Greeting and Announcements

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.**

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.**

Opening Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 pre - cious in your - sight.  
 hill to val - ley flow.  
 king - dom with - out end.

Apostolic 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

Let us pray.

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.**

*Word*

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy:

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16 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." 17 Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18 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. 19 Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20 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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 111

- 1 Hallelujah! 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 de- | light in them.
- 3 Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- 4 You cause your wonders to | be remembered;  
you are gracious and full | of compassion.
- 5 You give food to | those who fear you,  
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- 6 You have shown your people the power | of your works  
in giving them the lands | of the nations.
- 7 The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;  
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- 8 They stand fast forev- | er and ever,  
because they are done in | truth and equity.
- 9 You sent redemption to your people  
and commanded your cove- | nant forever;  
holy and awesome | is your name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise en- | dures forever.

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light;  
for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, responding, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

*(Brief silence)*

A: 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. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

A: 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. We pray for our president, Joe; our governor, Tom; our local school and municipal leaders, that they be given hearts, courage and wisdom for service. Lord in your mercy,  
C. **hear our prayer.**

A: 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; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, for those dealing with COVID-19. Lord in your mercy,  
C. **hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord in your mercy,  
C. **hear our prayer.**

A: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, Sally, Irene, Elsie, Donald, Bev, Allan, Evelyn, and Jayna. Lord in your mercy,  
C. **hear our prayer.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. 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.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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.**

Our Prayer for These Times

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot  
see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.  
Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go,  
but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

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

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Final Variation from Partita on *Azmon*

(Haan)

## **Serving Today**

**Presiding Ministers . . . .** Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon  
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville  
**Assisting Minister . . . . .** Dawn Blaus  
**Organist . . . . .** Maidene Hackett  
**Cantor . . . . .** Lauren Faber

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **Pastors in residence:**

**The Rev. Martin Roth**, Pastor Emeritus, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
**The Rev. Julia Fraser**, chaplain at St. Paul Homes  
**The Rev. Brian Riddle**, Thiel College Campus Pastor  
**The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson**, retired, Thiel College

## **This Week at Holy Trinity**

### **Sunday, January 31, 2021**, *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Liturgy of the Word  
NO Sunday Church School/Confirmation  
**11:15 a.m. Winter Congregation Meeting via Zoom**  
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

### **Monday, February 1, 2021**

- 7:00 p.m. Property Committee

### **Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

### **Thursday, February 4, 2021**

- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

### **Saturday, February 6, 2021**

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Sunday, February 7, 2021**, *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

- 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word  
10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

### **Tuesday, February 9, 2021**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

### **Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

- 7:00 p.m. Weekday Communion

### **Thursday, February 11, 2021**

- 10:00 a.m. Weekday Communion  
5:00 p.m. Officers' Planning Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee  
7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

### **Saturday, February 12, 2021**

- 5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word

## **In-Person Worship**

In-person worship will begin with services on Saturday, February 6 (5:30 p.m.), and Sunday, February 7 (9:30 a.m.), Wednesday small-group Eucharist at 7:00 p.m., and Thursday small-group Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

We will continue to live-stream Sunday morning worship for those who do not yet feel safe returning to the building. We encourage everyone to make the safest choice for them of attending in-person worship or watching from home.

As through most of 2020, masks continue to be required, and we will maintain physical distance. If you'd like to attend the Wednesday and Thursday services, please call the church office.

## **Offering Envelopes**

The boxes of 2021 offering envelopes are at the church and ready for you to pick up. **Please make note that there will be no quarterly mailings to your home. These envelopes are for use beginning in February.** You can stop in Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The boxes are in the nursery in alphabetical order. If you need to make other arrangements, please call the office at 724-588-8870 and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

## **Congregational Meeting**

Our annual congregational meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 11:15 a.m. This is the meeting at which we approve the annual budget.

We are planning for the meeting to be a hybrid of in-person and online attendance.

Most of you will join us via a Zoom computer link. We will post the link in our Holy Trinity Facebook group, and will also email to as many of you whose email addresses are in our computer system. If you have not received communications from us in either of those places and would like to receive the Zoom link, please let Tammy know in the church office.

For others who do not have computer access, you can join in-person in Brath Hall downstairs. Pastor Brenda will be there with the computer for those attending via Zoom.

## **Good Shepherd January Request**

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **January is Pancake mix, syrup, and cereal.**

**Please note there is an urgent need for toilet paper.**

Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

## **Please Pray For**

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

### **Health and Healing:**

Chris Hansen (cousin of Betty K. Junk)	Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)
Laurie Campbell (friend of Fran Black)	William J. (father of Catherine Mott)
Dennis (brother of Jim Martin)	Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)
Kelly (friend of Jill Murrin)	Lori
Earl and Carol (friends of Bonnie Long)	Carl
Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin)	Paul
Betty K.	Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)
Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)
Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)	
Jim	

### **Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:**

Allan Wilkins  
Beverly Richards  
The Rev. Donald Hake  
Cynthia Richardson (mom of Ray and Cathy Richardson)  
Evelyn Ramming  
Sally Werner (friend of the congregation)  
Jayna Spigelmeyer

### **In Military Service**

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)  
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)  
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)  
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)  
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)  
Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)