

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 4 B

In the scriptures the Word is announced through prophets who speak for God, and later through Jesus who teaches with God's authority. The church continues to proclaim the gospel of God's great love for humankind, the Word made flesh among us. It is the authority of the Gospel of God's undying love for the world and its creatures that enables us to announce a prophetic word of judgment and mercy to the same world in which we live.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: Prelude in G Major, BWV 541 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Recorded on Tuesday, January 26, 2021; Christine Walberg, organist.

HYMN: ELW 507, "O God of Light"
Sung at Mount Olive on the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 32 A, November 12, 2017.

Word

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God in the highest" (ELW setting 4)
Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 5 A, February 9, 2020.

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; reader – David Anderson, lector

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. 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.”

PSALMODY: Psalm 111

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

² Great are your ¹ works, O LORD, * pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them.

³ Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds, * and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

⁴ You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered; * you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.

⁵ You give food to ¹ those who fear you, * remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶ You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works * in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations.

⁷ The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice; * all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.

⁸ They stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever, * because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.

⁹ You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- ¹ nant forever; * holy and awesome ¹ is your name.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the begin- ¹ ning of wisdom; * all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise en- ¹ dures forever.

Recorded by singers of the Cantorei on Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; reader – Kat Campbell Johnson, assisting minister

Paul writes: 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW page 142, “Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 30 C, October 23, 2016.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ *Jesus and his disciples* 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.

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 665 “Rise, Shine, You People!”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 12 C, June 23, 2019.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Kat Campbell Johnson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

AT THE OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 673, “God, Whose Almighty Word”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Fourth Sunday in Lent, year A, March 30, 2014.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☞ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

“Hold On,” from *Spiritual Suite*

Calvin Taylor

Recorded on Tuesday, January 26, 2021; Christine Walberg, organist.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Evelyn Royce; Julia Adams; Elizabeth Beissel, Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; James Wilkes; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig

Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, James Alexander, and Susan Douglass, daughter, friends, and relative of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Ellen Katsoulis, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Kathryn Glick and Steve Swanson, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilke, Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes and family, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive. **At the death of:** Michael Brady; Jordan Craig, goddaughter of Kathy Thurston & Dwight Penas; Carl Schalk, Lutheran Church musician, scholar, composer.

- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Tom Bostelmann, Judith Graves, and Felix Reddy.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

February 2: *Presentation of Our Lord* – Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song “Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace,” as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

February 3: *St. Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865* – A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

February 5: *The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597* – Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.