

Epiphany



January 31, 2021

The Fourth Sunday after  
The Epiphany of Our Lord

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **ENTRANCE HYMN *To Thy Temple I Repair***

- 1. To Thy temple I repair; Lord, I love to worship there  
When within the veil I meet Christ before the mercy-seat.**
- 2. I through Him am reconciled, I through Him become Thy child.  
Abba, Father, give me grace In Thy courts to seek Thy face.**
- 3. While Thy glorious praise is sung, Touch my lips, unloose my  
tongue,  
That my joyful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my  
Righteousness.**
- 4. While the prayers of saints ascend, God of Love, to mine attend.  
Hear me, for Thy Spirit pleads; Hear, for Jesus intercedes.**
- 5. While I hearken to Thy Law, Fill my soul with humble awe  
Till Thy Gospel bring to me Life and immortality.**
- 6. While Thy ministers proclaim Peace and pardon in Thy name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I Hear Thee speaking from the  
sky.**
- 7. From Thy house when I return, May my heart within me burn  
And at evening let me say, "I have walked with God today."**

**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

### *Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

<sup>15</sup> "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers---it is to him you shall listen---<sup>16</sup> just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'<sup>17</sup> And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.<sup>18</sup> I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.<sup>19</sup> And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.<sup>20</sup> But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

*After the reading:*

Lector      This is the Word of the Lord  
**Congregation    Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

- <sup>1</sup> Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up.<sup>2</sup> If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know.<sup>3</sup> But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.
- <sup>4</sup> Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one."<sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth---as indeed 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> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.<sup>8</sup> Food will not commend us 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 right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.<sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols?<sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.<sup>12</sup> Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.<sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

*After the reading:*

Lector      This is the Word of the Lord  
**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**  
**These things are written that you may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter one, beginning at verse twenty-one.

**Congregation**      **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching.<sup>22</sup> And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.<sup>23</sup> And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,<sup>24</sup> "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 out with a loud voice, came out of him.<sup>27</sup> And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."<sup>28</sup> And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

*After the reading:*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation**      **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 thence 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 OF THE DAY** *Holy Spirit, Light Divine*

- 1. Holy Spirit, light divine  
Shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away  
Turn the darkness into day.**
- 2. Let me see my Savior's face,  
Let me all His beauties trace;  
Show those glorious truths to me  
Which are only known to Thee.**
- 3. Holy Spirit, pow'r divine  
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;  
In Thy mercy pity me,  
From sin's bondage set me free.**
- 4. Holy Spirit, joy divine  
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;  
Yield a sacred, settled peace,  
Let it grow and still increase.**
- 5. Holy Spirit, all divine,  
Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down every idol throne,  
Reign supreme, and reign alone.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord 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.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**    *Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

**1**    Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise.  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

**2**    Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;  
With Thee began, with Thee shall end the day;  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
That in this house have called upon Thy name.

**3**    Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;  
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light;  
From harm and danger keep Thy children free,  
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

**4**    Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Beau Bowman, Ron Cavalli, Dan Cinquegrana, Dot Durbec, Bette Eifert, Jenna Forbes, Pat Gianotti, Marilyn Grieco, Christopher Huss, Rowland Kegley, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Doris Lange, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Scott Meyer, Linda Sue Olsen, Bev Otten, Danielle Potocek, José Rojas, Gloria Rubner, Irma Schmuck, Delaney Westenhiser, and Anna Zulli

The members and friends of St. Paul's share their sympathy and the sure hope of the resurrection with the family of Earl Carpenter (Shirley Carpenter's husband). Earl passed away on Monday, January 18. Information about Earl Carpenter's funeral is not yet available.

The members and friends of St. Paul's share their sympathy and the sure hope of the resurrection with the family of Rev. Art Doring. Pastor Doring passed away on Tuesday, January 19. A celebration of Pastor Doring's ministry will take place this summer at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Stanhope.

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Lutheran World Relief & Human Care.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** Offerings received year-to-date at 12-27-10 were \$105,590.97.  
Yearly Budget Requirement \$176,145.00; Deficit \$-70,554.03.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, January 31

9:00 AM – Bible Study

10:00 AM – Worship Service

10:15 AM – Online Worship Service

Tuesday, February 2

7:30 PM -- Elder's Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

4:15 PM – Confirmation Class