

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(At 10:30 AM)

"Prelude in G Major"

F. Ritter

"Simple Gifts"

J. Purifoy

Sue Reier, flute

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 God's mercy and grace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the brokenness that binds 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.**

Amen.

How vast is God's amazing grace!
Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away, and we are truly forgiven.
And now as God's beloved children,
let us live out Christ's justice and mercy,
and share with the world, God's reconciling peace.

Amen.

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has reconciled us to himself. Let us also be reconciled and at peace with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"
[See back of bulletin]

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

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

A Reading from Deuteronomy

[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.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (Read Responsively)

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

²**Great are the deeds of the LORD!**

They are studied by all who delight in them.

³His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴**He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power of his works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;
holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
those who act accordingly have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

A Reading from 1 Corinthians

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

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

⁷It 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. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For 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? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

(1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

(Mark 1:21-28)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”
[See back of bulletin]

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED (Read in Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

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 suffering with COVID-19, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (*and especially for everyone on our prayer list*), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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, 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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

BLESSING

May Almighty God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"
[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"A Joyous Song of Praise"

S. Wesley

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Maddie Travor's birthday from Nannie
Stern.

Bulletins are presented in memory of loved ones by Diane Brobst.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (1/31/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Jeff Ritschel; GREETER: Chris Long; USHER: Doug Travor;

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long;

COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, and Glenda Bright

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (2/07/21)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Sue Schenck; GREETER: Doug Travor; USHER: Sue Reier

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: TBA

ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Jean Premich

Introduction to 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, January 31	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship
Thursday, February 4	7:00 PM	Adult Forum via ZOOM
Saturday, February 6	9:00 AM	Chili & Soup Sale "On the Square"
	5:30 PM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Sunday, February 7	8:00 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Worship w/ Holy Communion

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
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RESERVE A PLACE FOR OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Our worship seating is limited to 50-60 people per service because of our COVID-19 precautions. To avoid turning anyone away from our 7 PM Ash Wednesday service, please call the church office at (570) 366-2316 to reserve a place for yourself and your family by Sunday, February 14, 2021.

If you call our church office when it is closed, please leave a message on our answering machine. Speak slowly and clearly, identify yourself, give your phone number, and how many seats you would like to reserve. Your reservation will be confirmed shortly thereafter. Thank you for your continued patience.

GATHERING HYMN "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

CHILI & SOUP-ER BOWL SALE

As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday on February 7, 2021, The Men of St. Paul's will host a "Soup-er Bowl of Caring" Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 6th, beginning at 9 AM "on the Square." Come for great chili and many tasty homemade soups. Each is priced at \$7.00/quart or three (3) quarts for \$20.00.

OPEN COUNCIL POSITIONS

Four (4) positions on our congregational council will need to be filled at our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, February 14, 2021. If you are interested in being part of our council or if you would just like more information, please contact Pastor Mike, President Chris Long, or any of our other council members.

SENDING HYMN:

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

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.