

Epiphany 4, January 31, 2021, Order of Worship

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship, Psalm 111 A Psalm of praise for all God has done and is doing. The adjectives describing God and his works are printed in bold; verse 10 is a well-known proverb in English.

*Praise the Lord! I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. **Great** are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. **Glorious and majestic** are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is **gracious and compassionate**. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations. The works of his hands are **faithful and just**; all his precepts (statutes, ordinances) are **trustworthy**. They are **steadfast** for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness. He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—**holy and awesome** is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs **eternal** praise.*

Confession and Forgiveness for the season of Epiphany

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. Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways** (Psalm 139:1a, 3b). **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** (Psalm 139:4); **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 *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (public domain) LBW 248, ELW 520

*Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you.
As the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.*

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The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 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. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

Children's Time

A reading from Deuteronomy, the 18th chapter (18:15-20) The book of Deuteronomy is the farewell speech of Moses to God's people, whom he's been leading in the wilderness for the past 40 years. In today's verses he shares God's promise: God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

Moses said, *The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people. You must listen to him, for this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb, that day when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God, nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." Then the Lord replied to me (Moses), "What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their people. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death."*

Word of God, word of life.

Alleluia *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter (1:21-28), Sermon (page 5)

Hymn of the Day *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* (public domain) LBW 87, ELW 311

*Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression and rule in e---quity.*

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*He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.*

The Apostle's Creed

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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2020, p. 85)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, and lay leaders; and for the church and its ministries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all God's work in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those who protect our natural resources and all that exists. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for government and leaders, cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; and for all who are responsible for the well-being of civil society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick or hospitalized, those living with long-term effects of the coronavirus, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all who are in any need; and for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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We pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who are absent from worship, those celebrating special events while distanced or apart; for the people of God in this place, and for other needs in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all wisdom and righteousness, our nation is broken and divided. May truth be spoken by our leaders, and may a desire for peace begin to fill the hearts and minds of all who are in conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, and for those who have died in the Lord. Bestow your comfort on all who grieve for lost ones. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution
The Lord's Prayer
Distribution
Communion Blessing

Benediction: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* (public domain) ELW 645

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.*

*To this temple where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come, with all your loving-kindness, hear your people as they pray;
And your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

Dismissal Now go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
 Thanks be to God!