

# Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 31, 2021

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession & Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Because of Jesus, God has forgiven all our sin. Hear the gospel of Christ from 1 John:
- "This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."
- C** Amen.

## Psalm

*Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7, 10*

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- C** **Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**
- P** Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- C** **I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you  
forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time  
when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
- C** **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## 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.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>1</sup>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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy  
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as  
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with  
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed  
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of  
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we  
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.  
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.  
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send  
 Fill our songs with alleluias,  
 Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
 To Thee laud and honor be.  
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
 Praise be sung eternally.  
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
 Glory, glory be to Thee.  
 Mortals, angels, now and ever  
 Praise the holy Trinity!

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

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

<sup>21</sup>They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

### Prayer

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

## **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.**

## **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.**

## **Holy Communion**

# Distribution Hymn

# By Grace Alone



Out of the depths I cry to You; Lord, hear my voice of  
Your par-don is a gift of love; Your grace a-lone must  
Though great our sins and sore our woes, His grace much more a-



plead-ing. Bend down Your gra-cious ear, I pray, Your hum-ble  
save us. Our works will not re-move our guilt; the strict-est  
bound-eth. His help-ing love no lim-it knows; our ut-most



ser-vant heed-ing. If You re-mem-ber each mis-  
life would fail us. Let none in deeds or mer-its  
need it sound-eth. Our kind and faith-ful Shep-herd



deed, and of each thought and word take heed, who can re-  
boast, but let us own the Ho-ly Ghost, for He a-  
He, who will set all His peo-ple free from all their



main be-fore You? On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.  
lone can change us: On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.  
sin and sor-row: On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.

Text: Martin Luther; tune: David Ward © 2002 ThousandTongues.org. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

# Distribution Hymn

# Jesus Paid It All



I hear the Sav-ior say, "Thy  
 Lord, For no - thing good I have the throne, Where  
 And when, be - fore the throne, I Where -

strength in - deed is small, Child of weak - ness, watch and  
 pow'r and Thine a - lone, Can change the lep - er's  
 stand Thy grace to claim; I'll wash my gar - ments  
 by in Him com - plete, "Je - sus died my soul to

pray, spots Find in me thine all in all."  
 white In And the melt the heart of stone.  
 save," My the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.  
 peat.

Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe;

Sin had left a crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Text: Elvina M. Hall; tune: John T. Grape; text & tune: public domain



# Distribution Hymn #643

# Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of our God from His dwell-ing take leave.  
 The tasks of our ev-'ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-per is end-ed, O now be ex-tend-ed  
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.  
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,  
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.  
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us  
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing

To work for God's king-dom and an-swer His call.  
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf; tune: Welsh; tune: public domain; text: © 1964 World Library Publications. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734

# Announcements

## **Bible Study \***

Sunday @ 12:30 PM (Zoom) \* Please text Pastor Mueller if you have not yet attended and would like a Zoom invitation link sent to your email.

## **Sunday School**

Students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited downstairs immediately after Communion for a brief (5-10 minute) period where they can grab a pre-packaged snack, hear a short message and take home materials to work on at home.

**Youth Confirmation** –Today 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**New Member Class** - Tonight 6:00pm - 7:30PM

**Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study** – 6:30 AM

**Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible Study** (*The Screwtape Letters*) 7:00 PM – Contact Aaron for a Zoom invitation.

## **Titus 2: Women of Faith Bible Study**

This brand new, women's Bible study is offered to all women ages 19 and up. Sign up in the church narthex or contact the church officer for more information.

## **Jr. High & Sr. High Youth Group (6th-12th Grade)**

Join us Tuesday night at church for Bible study, fellowship and fun from 6:30-8:00 PM. We are reading through the book of Ephesians and preparing our hearts to serve the Lord in our community. Upcoming serve opportunities: Homeless Outreach in Granite City February 13th 12:30-3:00 PM

**Metro-East Lutheran High School** will host an open house on today, from 1 PM to 3 PM. All are invited. For more information, call the school office at 618-656-0043 or email [admissions@melhs.org](mailto:admissions@melhs.org).

**Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign** –The Mosaic Baby Bottle Campaign is here! Please pick up a baby bottle in the narthex, fill it with change or your donation and bring it back by 2/14. Mosaic transforms lives by providing free, life-affirming pregnancy & sexual health services, education & Christ-centered support.

**Catch up with Sue, our missionary with Wycliffe** - Sue is holding zoom forums on the following topics:

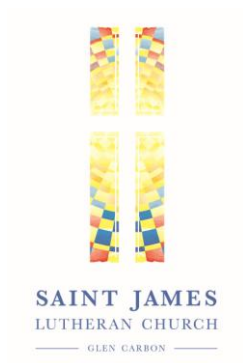
- Feb 1 - The road God has led me on so far...
- Feb 8 - What lies ahead...

The calls will be at 2 times:

- 10am CST (11am EST, 9am MST, 8am PST)
- 7pm CST (8pm EST, 6pm MST, 5pm PST)

Contact the church office to sign up.

2020 Member Giving Statements have were sent via email January 13th. If you have not received your statement, please check your email "junk" folder or contact [Cheryl](#).



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