

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 27 & 28, 2018

5:00 & 8:15



## AS WE GATHER

God's Word regarding salvation is clear and sure. He spoke through Moses and the prophets who followed him. And finally, He spoke most clearly in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. But false prophets and unclean spirits can seem convincing and powerful. So, in today's Epistle, Paul urges us to be concerned for "the brother for whom Christ died." Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice gives us freedom. But it also calls us to sacrifice our rights for the sake of others in the weakness of their faith or conscience.

## PRELUDE

**RINGING OF THE BELLS** - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*



WELCOME

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**OPENING HYMN** "Yesterday, Today, Forever"

Burkhart [TUNE *LSB* 685]

**Yesterday, today, forever, Our Lord Jesus is the same.  
He, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the Lamb of God, His name;  
Who was there in the beginning And will be there at the end,  
The Almighty One, our friend,  
There, with all the saints and angels, We shall stand before His throne  
Where unending joy is known.**

**Yesterday in Bethl'em's manger Jesus made His earthly bed;  
Giving up His heav'nly mansion; to become our Living Bread.  
With His blood He paid our ransom; Died and rose that we might be  
Freed from Satan's tyranny  
To inherit life eternal; Thus, our praises we employ,  
Bathed in endless grace and joy.**

**Here on earth today we wander Knowing not what may betide,  
Even so our Savior's near us, Never changing by our side.  
Though our pilgrim path's uncertain, We remain in His embrace  
As we run this earthly race.  
Therefore, trust in Jesus solely, In His grace now rest secure  
Joyful in God's promise sure.**

**Christ will stay with us forever; With Him we shall e'er remain  
When our time on earth is over He will call us by our name;  
For our Savior will remember How in Him we were baptized  
He will say to us "Arise!"  
Come, partake of God's own promise That was made so long ago,  
And My joy forever know."**

**ΔGlory be to God the Father, Author of all life and light;  
Honor bring to Christ the Savior Who has set all things aright.  
Praise sing to the Holy Spirit For the gift of faithfulness.  
To the Three in One address  
All our thanks and adoration Till that joyous day when we  
Dwell in God's infinity.**

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*(Please Stand)*

## INVOCATION

Pastor: At our Lord's Epiphany, we celebrate God in man made manifest.

**Men:** *Manifest to the Magi.*

**Women:** *Manifest to the Jews.*

**Men:** *Manifest to the Gentiles.*

**Women:** *Manifest to all nations.*

**All:** **Manifest to us! Manifest through us!**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 45:7, 17*

*(If you would like private confession and absolution,  
please call the office (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

**People:** **Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

[OR]

Seminary Student: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

**People:** **Amen.**

**Songs of thankfulness and praise Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
 Manifested by the star To the sages from afar.  
 Branch of royal David’s stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
 Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word—  
 Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
 That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany  
 And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.**

### SALUTATION

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.

**People:** **Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;**

**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15–20*

(God promises a prophet to follow Moses.)

<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.’

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



### EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 8:1–13* (Paul warns against hurting the faith of a weak brother.)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**GOSPEL VERSE** “O God of God, O Light of Light”

*LSB 810, v. 1*

**O God of God, O Light of Light, O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To You in heaven's glory bright The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne, The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won, all thanks and praise! Amen, amen.**



**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 1:21–28* (People are amazed at Jesus' authority over unclean spirits.)

*The congregation is invited to speak the scripture in bold*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: **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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



**APOSTLES' CREED**

*LSB 159*

**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.**

*(Please Be Seated)*



**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** "This Little Gospel Light of Mine" v. 1

**This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.  
Let it shine all the time let it shine.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

*LSB 842*

**Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

**As You, Lord have lived for others, So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By your patient years of toiling, By your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.**

**Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race;  
By Your praying, by Your willing That your people should be one,  
Grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition; Here on earth Your will be done.**



**SERMON**

*(Please Stand)*



**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

**Pastor:** Kind Master, You summon Your children to consider and weigh the impact of their actions on their weaker brothers and sisters and so not to live in such a way that they are merely pleasing themselves. Help all the members of our congregation to be considerate of one another and not to put needless stumbling blocks in the way of each other's faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Into Your merciful keeping, we commend all those entrusted with civil authority among us. Help them to serve our nation and communities with honor. Remember also all in our armed forces and particularly our chaplains who minister to them in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father, You invite everyone who is godly to offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found. Hear the cries of Your children who call to You in their time of need: those who are ill, hospitalized, injured, grieving, lonely or frightened [*and especially all we name before You: \_\_\_\_\_*]. Have mercy on them all, O Lord, and let them take comfort in Your steadfast love that surrounds those who trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, You are our hiding place. You preserve Your children from trouble and surround them with shouts of deliverance. Receive our thanks for all the faithful departed who have gone before us and now rest in Christ. Bring us with all Your saints to the joys of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

*(Special Petitions)*

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

**People: Amen.**

*(Please be Seated)*



**GATHERING OF OFFERINGS** “Just as I Am, Lord” *Ascension Choir*

*(Please Stand)*

**OFFERTORY** “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

*LSB 806*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One.**

**Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One.**

**Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**And now let the weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,”**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us.**

**Give thanks, give thanks.**



**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

*The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at Ascension in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. All those who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.*

**PREFACE**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for Your Son is God in flesh made manifest to us. You continue to make Him known to the nations today through Your Holy Word and Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS

LSB 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

LSB 162

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

**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.**

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** “O God, My Faithful God”

LSB 696

**O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:  
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.**

**Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing  
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;  
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless  
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.**

**Keep me from saying words That later need recalling;  
Guard me lest idle speech May from my lips be falling;  
But when within my place I must and ought to speak,  
Then to my words give grace Lest I offend the weak.**

**Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small  
And by Your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.**

**Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;  
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;  
And let my body have A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.**

**And on that final day When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand, My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice, Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name.**

**“We All Believe in One True God”**

*LSB 953*

**We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
Ever present help in need, Praised by all heav'nly host;  
All He made His love enfolds, All creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son,  
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won;  
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both in truth proceeds,  
Who sustains and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.  
Blessed, holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!**

**“Where Charity and Love Prevail”**

*LSB 845*

**Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear His charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love Him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,  
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;  
As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.**

**For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;  
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.**

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(Please Stand)



**BENEDICTION** *Isaiah 60:1*

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
People: **and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
*Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

*LSB 849*

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.**

**Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.**

**Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.**

**POSTLUDE**

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