

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!

Please email Caitlyn in the office at officefelc@zoominternet.net to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!

+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281
Password: 408299

PRELUDE	<i>"Hail the Day, So Rich in Joy"</i>	- Johann Pachelbel
	<i>"Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star"</i>	- Theophil Forchhammer
	<i>"They Cast Their Nets in Galilee"</i>	- Herbert G. Draesel, Jr.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HYMN (next page)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
 pre - cious in your sight.
 hill to val - ley flow.
 king - dom with out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
 Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

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

GLORY TO GOD

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: 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 SERMON

THE WORD

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[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."

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 your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

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

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

Alleluia! The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 1:21-28

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY *online*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of those in need.

That all members of the church on earth learn from Christ and his teaching with authority, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That our congregation keeps its heart and mind focused on Jesus as we conduct our annual meeting today, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That those who are suffering throughout the world from famine and war, especially the people of Yemen find a path to food and security, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That widespread hunger in our own nation moves us to outrage and action, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That Christ rebukes the unclean spirits of divisiveness, bitterness, violence, and racism within us and that he sets us free for a peaceful, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That the sick receive healing, that the lonely find company, and that those whose mental health is fragile receive care, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That any who are bored out of their minds, restless, listless, or otherwise on their last nerve with pandemic restrictions receive energy and focus, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That the virus be restrained, that the economy be repaired, that each resident of our community be responsible in caring for themselves, their families, and their society, let us pray:
Have mercy, O God.

That those who oversee vaccinations receive wisdom and endurance; that vaccination efforts be just and reach all in need; that sign up websites actually work, and that those who wait be given patience, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

That those who have died in resurrection receive the fullness of Christ's promises until that day when he comes again, let us pray:

Have mercy, O God.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your loving care, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Finally, as Jesus has taught us, we are bold 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 SENDING

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

POSTLUDE

“Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”

- J.C. Bach

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	Presiding Minister
Sharon Heist Miller	Assisting Minister
Jeanne Graff	Reader
Sharon Heist Miller	Crucifer
Kevin Mathias	Organist
Josh Kamerer	AV Assisting Minister
Brandon Stein	PowerPoint Assisting Minister
Bob and Karen Domanski	Ushers
Jim and Jeanette Cunningham	Counters

Flowers are given to the glory of God by the congregation of First English Lutheran Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 2/1	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 2/2	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
Wednesday, 2/3	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 2/4	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 2/6	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual meeting will take place after worship today, in accordance with our congregation's by-laws.

The meeting will be held in a hybrid zoom/in-person format. Those members of our congregation who call into zoom worship via landline or who do not have any zoom access have been invited to worship in person today and attend the congregational meeting.

The church council respectfully asks that those who are able to join worship and the meeting by zoom video please do so.

This arrangement will allow *all* members to be able to ask questions and make comments in the annual meeting (as is legally required), while keeping the risk of coronavirus transmission as low as possible. Please remember that community transmission is still high and that our staff, our A/V technicians, and a couple of our council members do not have the option of staying home if we are to lead worship and the meeting in a suitable way. We want to protect them as much as possible.

If you would like Easter flowers, please place your order with the church office (724) 283-2378 or officefelc@zoominternet.net by Sunday, March 14th. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Social room or you can contact the office for an order form.

PRAYERS

David and Michele, the Jones family, the family of Jean Baldauf, Gene Fozard, Jamie Goehring, Jason Beckwith, and Devin, Codi, Savannah, Alyssa & Ethan, Rachel Faulkner, Graham Cannon, the family of Pastor Christine and Mark Rotella, Dewey Miller, Edna Hartman, and their loved ones; Debbie Damiano, Frida Nelson, Pam and children, the family and friends of Jake, the family of Marian Boltz, the family of Zack, Sue Morrow, Joan, Joey Lash, Andrea Dubler, Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, the family of Edgard Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah,

the family of Nancy, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31

The creator of all cares for the powerless

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A servant for the sake of the gospel

Mark 1:29-39

The healing of Peter's mother-in-law