

# First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, January 31, 2021: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

## Gathering

### Welcoming & Announcements

### Confession & 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 the abundant grace of God. (silence is kept for reflection)*

**Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. 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 tongue, you know them; 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.*

### 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.*

### Kyrie

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

*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. Lord, have mercy.*

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. 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.*

### Hymn: "O God of Light" #507

1. O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,  
shall pierce the darkness of our earth-bound way  
and show your grace, your plan for us unveiling,  
and guide our footsteps to the perfect day.
2. From days of old, through blind and willful ages,  
though we rebelled, you gently sought again,  
and spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,  
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

3. Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing  
to sinful hearts your justice and your grace;  
and questing spirits, longing for your healing,  
see your compassion in the Savior's face.
4. To all the world your summons you are sending,  
through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,  
that myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,  
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

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## Word

### Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This 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." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But 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."

### Psalm 111

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

Great are your works, O Lord, **pondered by all who delight in them.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him. <sup>4</sup>Hence, 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." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact 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>It 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. <sup>8</sup>"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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of

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

**Gospel Acclamation** Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:21-28 (*response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> and 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." <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 with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They 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." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

## **Message**

**Hymn:** "Healer of our Every Ill" #612

**Refrain: Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

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| 1. You who know our fears and sadness,<br>grace us with your peace and gladness;<br>Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. <b>Refrain</b> | 2. In the pain and joy beholding,<br>how your grace is still unfolding,<br>give us all your vision, God of love. <b>Refrain</b>         |
| 3. Give us strength to love each other,<br>ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;<br>Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. <b>Refrain</b>            | 4. You who know each thought and feeling,<br>teach us all your way of healing;<br>Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. <b>Refrain</b> |

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## **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 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.**

**Offering/Offertory** *“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

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**Prayers & Lord's Prayer**

**Sharing the Peace** *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

## **Sending**

**Hymn:** *“Son of God, Eternal Savior” #655*

1. 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 wrong, and help our need.
2. 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.
4. 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.

*Text: Somerset C. Lorwy. Public Domain.*

**Benediction**

*Go in peace, serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!***

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## **Remember in your prayers**

Erik Brekke, Gene Recibe, family and friends of Virene Irwin-Nagl, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those working in our hospitals and care centers, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.