

# ST. JOHANNES LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 HASSELL ST. CHARLESTON SC 29401



**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 2021**

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** 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 tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy**

**P:** 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 18:15-20

P: A reading from Deuteronomy.

Moses said: <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.”

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

## **PSALM 111 (in unison)**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.  
<sup>2</sup>Great are your works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who delight in them.  
<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness endures forever.  
<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to be remembered;  
you are gracious and full of compassion.  
<sup>5</sup>You give food to those who fear you,  
remembering forever your covenant.  
<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power of your works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.  
<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all of your precepts are sure.  
<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forever and ever,  
because they are done in truth and equity.  
<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;  
holy and awesome is your name.  
<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding. God’s praise endures forever.

## **SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

P: A reading from First Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup>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. P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL St. Mark 1:21-28**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>21</sup>Jesus and his disciples 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Rich Donoghue**

***Silence for reflection follows the sermon.***

## **HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #310 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"**

### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph - et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak - ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God - head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**P:** *Let us confess our faith in the words of the APOSTLES' CREED:*

**C:** 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.

## PR AYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need *especially* **Brian and Carol Duwe, Emily Laird, Elliott Spann, Linda Mizzell, Gerry Naumann, Betty Addison, Victor Thompson, Sharon Masso, Monte Mims, Judy Long, Tammy Tanner, Marcy Floyd, Connie Morgan, Charles Long III, Anne Foster, Marie Mood, Barbara Lyerly, Mary Sweat, Elmore Marlow, Ted Bowers, Bob Oswald, Bill Cornwell, Marilyn Stehmeier, Bryan Steele, and Pooh Kanapaux, and those we name aloud and in our hearts;** for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (*especially*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

**C: Amen**

**SENDING HYMN#: ELW 665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"**

## Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
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## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements:**

Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> after the service. If we are still not having in person services, we will advise you on how we will have this meeting. We are updating our constitution to bring it into conformity with the ELCA governing documents. The proposed final draft of our updated St. Johannes Constitution, which contains a one page “Cliff’s Notes” guide with highlights, was sent out via email to members. It is also posted on our church website in the Home tab section under “Church Constitution”. We will be voting on this constitution at the Congregation Meeting scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the vote the Rules and Procedures Committee will host two Zoom meetings to address any questions you may have. You are also encouraged to contact the chair of that committee, Pedro Rivas (email: [rivascontracts99@gmail.com](mailto:rivascontracts99@gmail.com)). He will be happy to provide further insight and details as necessary.