

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Concerning . . . Your Brother

January 28, 2024

10:30am

AS WE GATHER

All throughout the Epiphany season is the shadow of the question: Who is Jesus? We have heard Jesus called the Lamb of God and the light of the world. Now He is proclaimed our Brother who lays aside what is His right to become our servant even to death upon a cross. Within that context, we who are called His brothers claim not right or privilege but the path of service in Christ. Our freedom is not the liberty to do as we please but the responsibility of love for the sake of our weaker brother—just as Christ suffered as the innocent for the guilty. Instead of looking inside of us, we have something better to look at: Christ and our neighbor.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said,
"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding
and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."
Luke 10:21

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING HYMN

"One Church"

Your hand, O God, has guided Your Church from age to age,
The tale of love is written for us on ev'ry page.
Our fathers knew Your goodness, And we, Your works record,
And each of these bear witness: One Church, one faith, one Lord.
One Church, one faith, one Lord of life;
One Father, one Spirit, one Christ.
One Church, one faith, one Lord of life;
One Heavenly King, Lord of all.

Your mercy never fails us, or leaves Your work undone;
With Your right hand to help us, the vict'ry shall be won.
And then the heaven's angels Your name shall be adored,
and they shall praise You, singing: One Church , one Faith, one Lord.
One Church, one faith, one Lord of life;
One Father, one Spirit, one Christ.
One Church, one faith, one Lord of life;
One heavenly King, Lord of all. .. Lord of all ... Lord of all.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

People: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: O most merciful God who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Give Thanks”

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

(Repeat)

Ending: Give thanks...give thanks... give thanks

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we rejoice that you have sent to us your Son to be our Brother and to take our place in suffering that we might be saved. Deliver us from our captivity to sin, the tyranny of self, and the temptation of the world that our hearts may be focused upon Christ and delivered from every evil; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 18:15–20* (God will raise up a prophet.)

¹⁵ “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— ¹⁶ 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.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ 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* (Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.)

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ² If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴ 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.” ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ 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? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ 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.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:21–28* (The people are astonished at the authority of Jesus' teaching and His power over unclean spirits.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ "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." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ 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."

²⁸ 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.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"This Little Gospel Light of Mine"

This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine; (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm going to let it shine (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

It will point the way to heaven, I'm going to let it shine (x3)
Let it shine all the time, let it shine.

SERMON HYMN

"The Family Prayer Song"

Come and fill our homes with your presence;
You alone are worthy of our reverence.

**Refrain: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;
We will serve the Lord.**

Lord, we vow to live holy, bowing our knees to you only; **Refrain**

Staying together, praying together
any storm we can weather, trusting in God's Word.
We need each other, fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers in harmony and love. **Refrain**

Ending: We will serve the Lord

SERMON

"Sacrificially Loving Your Brother"

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

(Rise)

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.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Holy Trinity, you are God of gods and Lord of lords. Truly, there is no God but you alone. From you and from your Son, Jesus Christ, are all things.

People: Reveal the saving knowledge of Christ's truth to us and all the world, that loving you and one another, we may live our lives by sharing the love of Christ with all.

Pastor: O Lord, our God, whose voice was heard at Sinai and whose authority was made manifest in Christ, the Prophet greater than Moses, send faithful preachers into your harvest who will be diligent to listen to your Word and speak it faithfully in your name.

People: Bless our Together in Mission Partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry, as he serves Christ in the mission field. As your people, preserve us all from false prophets who would lead us away from your truth, and give us ears to hear gladly the saving words of Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, guard our families and homes, and build them up in love. Support parents in their task of instructing their children and strengthen those whose faith is weak.

People: Make us bold in facing our culture as we share the truths of our most holy faith.

Pastor: Almighty God, give health and success to our president and governor, our legislators and judges, and all who serve for our governance and protection.

People: Make them high in purpose, wise in counsel and unwavering in duty.

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son cast out unclean spirits and taught with authority. He is the Great Physician of body and soul. Have mercy on those who are sick, distressed, in danger or facing any need especially Roger, Anna, Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Don, Pat, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Cindy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Sustain them with patience, trusting in your merciful care, and graciously heal and relieve them.

Pastor: Dear Lord, look with favor on all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and renewal of life.

People: Fill us all with faith and thankfulness for this precious gift, that we may live a loving and sacrificial life in the name of Christ.

Pastor: Lord of hope, guard and keep us all as we face the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, and preserve the faith of those troubled by doubts.

People: Through the daily remembrance of our Baptism, enable us to win the victory over all that threatens our faith.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #700 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n to earth come down!

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev’ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev’ry troubled breast;

Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;

Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,

Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,

Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav’n we take our place

Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

“All Who Are Thirsty ”

Verse: All who are thirsty, all who are weak,

Come to the fountain. Dip your heart in the stream of life.

Let the pain and the sorrow be wash’d away

In the waves of His mercy as deep cries out to deep

Chorus: We sing Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Repeat song

“He Knows My Name”

I have a Maker He formed my heart

Before even time began My life was in His hand

Chorus: He knows my name He knows my every thought

He sees each tear that falls

And hears me when I call

I have a Father He calls me His own

He’ll never leave me No matter where I go *Repeat Chorus Twice*

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COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Rejoicing in your mercy, we pray you to guard and guide us by your Spirit, that we who have known with joy the blessings of your mercy in Christ may be kept from all evil and preserved in the righteousness that is ours by faith, until that Day when we no longer must wrestle against principalities and powers. Grant us to live holy, upright, and godly lives in response to all that your love has accomplished in us and for us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN “Love the Lord Your God”

Love the Lord Your God with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Love the Lord Your God with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

With all your heart, with all your soul,
With all your mind, with all your strength;
Love the Lord, your God with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

With all my heart, with all my soul,
With all my mind, with all my strength;
I will serve the Lord with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

(Musical interlude)

Bridge:	<i>Praise Singers</i>	<i>Congregation (Echo)</i>
	I will love You;	(I will love You;)
	I will praise You;	(I will praise You;)
	I will serve You;	(I will serve You;)
	I will trust You; Lord	(I will trust You...)

With all my heart, with all my soul,
With all my mind, with all my strength;
With all my heart, with all my soul,
With all my mind, with all my strength;

I will love You, Lord, with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength:
I will love You, Lord, with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength:
I will love You, Lord, with all my heart,
With all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lector
Special Music

Pastor Harold Bender
Elisabeth Matusewic
Praise Band

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