



4th Sunday after Epiphany

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

January 31, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

WORSHIP THEME

Why follow him? Jesus shows his glory by his triumph over the devil. In his own day he sometimes did that openly for many to see. He still does it just as effectively but in a less public, less obvious way. Just as his victory made manifest his glory then, so it does now. Just as then, so now, everything is accomplished through his authoritative Word.

MORNING PRAISE

"Morning Praise" is based on the historic service called "Matins". Joined to Christ, our risen Lord, we glorify God as we prepare for the activities of the day.

please stand

HYMN

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word | CW 221



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
 3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
 God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
 With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
 Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
 Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
 peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
 low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.
 Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.



S: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



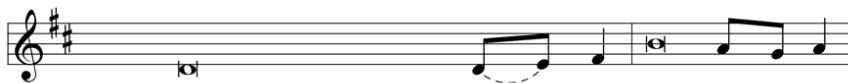
C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

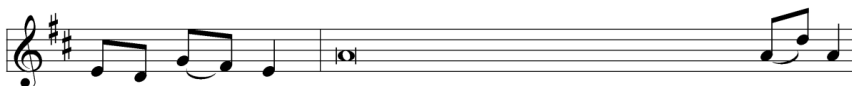


M: Praise be to God, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy — Spir - it: let us wor - ship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD – *Venite*



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



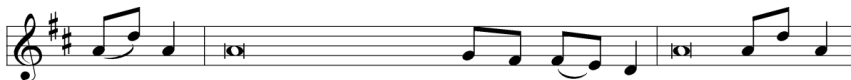
great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



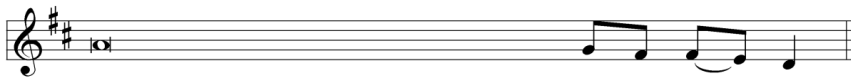
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: Amen.

be seated

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses gives the promise of another Prophet who will be like Moses, yet greater. In the Old Testament the penalty for false doctrine was death; for God takes his Word seriously. In the New Testament there is no call for us to kill false prophets. But there remains the call to shun them and dread the dread effect of their words and works. God takes his Word seriously. Woe to those who do not! For they invite the devil's rule and his fate, which Jesus expels when he speaks and we listen.

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ This is what you requested from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let us not continue to hear the voice of the LORD our God or see this great fire any longer, so that we will not die!’ ¹⁷ Then the LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a message in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet must die.’

Psalm 1

Psalm tone



Our Lord wants us to be careful in our Christian freedom so that we do not offend the weak. The use of meat sacrificed to idols is something neither commanded nor forbidden by God. In matters of concern today, we remember not to wound weak consciences merely to show that something is permissible.

Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that “we all have knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.² If anyone thinks he knows anything, he does not yet know it as he ought to know it.³ But if anyone loves God, he is known by him.

⁴ About eating food sacrificed to idols, then, we know that “an idol is nothing in the world,”[Ⓜ] and that “there is no God but one.”⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth—as there are many “gods” and many “lords”—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father. All things are from him, and we exist for him. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things are through him, and we exist through him.

⁷ However, not everyone has this knowledge. Some have been so used to idolatry up until now that when they eat food sacrificed to an idol, their conscience, being weak, is defiled.⁸ Food will not bring us close to God.[Ⓜ] We are not worse off if we don’t eat, and we are not better if we do eat.⁹ But be careful that this right of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak.¹⁰ For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, won’t his weak conscience be encouraged[Ⓜ] to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ So the weak person, the brother or sister for whom Christ died, is ruined[Ⓜ] by your knowledge. ¹² Now when you sin like this against brothers and sisters and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother or sister to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won’t cause my brother or sister to fall.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Luke 4:18

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news.

Alleluia.

please stand

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:21-28

The devil is quiet when false doctrine is taught. But as soon as Jesus appears with the gospel, the devil is enraged and does all that he can to hinder the message. Here he does it by confessing what on the surface is the truth; but he does it with evil intent, to hinder the work of the glorious gospel. Who, after all, wants to be confessed by the devil? At the very least the confession of the demons would confuse people. But Jesus silences the devil and drives him away, while the devil in leaving demonstrates that his only power is to hurt and destroy, and only that so long as the Lord for reasons of his own permits it.

²¹ They went into Capernaum, and right away he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath and began to teach. ²² They were astonished at his teaching because he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not like the scribes.

²³ Just then a man with an unclean spirit was in their synagogue. He cried out, ²⁴ “What do you have to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

²⁵ Jesus rebuked him saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit threw him into convulsions, shouted with a loud voice, and came out of him.

²⁷ They were all amazed, and so they began to ask each other, “What is this? A new teaching with authority!^[a] He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once the news about him spread throughout the entire vicinity of Galilee.

be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise, Shine, You People | CW 556



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



en - tered Our hu - man sto - ry; God in
reel - ing; He brings us free - dom, light and
furl - ing, Your songs and prayers a - gainst the
save us. Tell of the Son, who life and



him is cen - tered. He comes to us, by death
life and heal - ing. All men and wom - en, who
dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the world go out
free - dom gave us. Tell how the Spir - it calls



and sin sur - round - ed, With grace un - bound - ed.
by guilt are driv - en, Now are for - giv - en.
and tell the sto - ry Of Je - sus' glo - ry.
from ev - 'ry na - tion His new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. © Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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Tune: WOJTKIEWIECZ (11 11 11 5) Dale Wood, b. 1934. © Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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please stand

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The offerings during the week are placed on the altar. Thank you to all who are able to support our church and it's ministry during this time. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to give.

LORD, HAVE MERCY – *Kyrie*

please stand



M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



C: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN

Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You | CW 455



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you,
2 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish,

O Chris - tians, lest the foe de - stroy you, For Sa - tan
And keep them that they nev - er per - ish Whom you have

has de - signed your fall. Wield God's Word, a weap - on
pur - chased with your blood. Let new life to us be

glo - rious; A - gainst each foe you'll be vic -
giv - en That we may look to you in

to - rious; Our God will set you o'er them all.
heav - en When - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.

Fear not the prince of hell— Here is Im - man - u - el!
Your Spir - it on us pour That we may love you more,

Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield To Christ, our shield,
Hearts o'er - flow - ing; And then shall we, From sin set free,

And we as con - qu'rors hold the field.
Sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Wilhelm E. Arends, 1677–1721, abr.; tr. John M. Sloan, 1835–after 1890, alt.
Tune: WACHET AUF (898 898 664 448) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen



M: Let us praise the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Abide, O Dearest Jesus | CW 333

333

Abide, O Dearest Jesus



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us
 3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us,
 4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us,
 5 A - bide with your pro - tec - tion A - mong us,



with your grace That Sa - tan may not
 with your Word And thus now and here -
 pre - cious Light; Your truth di - rect and
 boun - teous Lord; Let us in grace and
 Lord, our Strength, Lest world and Sa - tan



harm us Nor we to sin give place.
 af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
 keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
 wis - dom Grow dai - ly through your Word.
 fell us And ov - er - come at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
 Among us with your love;
 Grant steadfastness and help us
 To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN (76 76) Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615, alt.

Jesus is Revealed by Setting Captives Free

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

God's Word for Today

We call Jesus our Redeemer. The word "redeem" means to buy back from capture and captivity, to pay a ransom. As sinful human beings we were captive to the law of God because of our sin and the consequences of sin, principally death. But Jesus has set us free from the law, its threats and its curses, by keeping God's law for us perfectly. As Christians we are no longer "under law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14). But we are not to abuse our Christian freedom. Instead Jesus has set us free so we will become slaves to righteousness, serving others in love, always thanking our Redeemer.

First Lesson (Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

1. What request did the people of Israel have for the Lord when they had previously assembled at Mt. Horeb (Sinai)?
2. Whom was the Lord going to send?
3. Which is worse, for a preacher to speak a little that God has not commanded, or to speak in the name of other gods?

Gospel (Mark 1:21-28)

4. What did people notice when Jesus taught?
5. How did Jesus demonstrate his authority?



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

The WORD works

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Worship & Music:

- ☐ Serve as an usher (hand out bulletins, collect offerings,) (*Time: three months of Sundays rotating throughout the year.*)
- ☐ Serve as the lead usher (coordinating the other ushers) (*time: 30 minutes before and 10 minutes after each worship service for a month.*)
- ☐ LiveStream setup and monitoring (*Time: 15 minutes before worship and during.*)
- ☐ Audio Tech (*Time: 15 minutes before worship and during*)
- ☐ Print & fold bulletins for services (*Time: 45–60 minutes each month*)
- ☐ Play (or learn) a musical instrument for worship _____
- ☐ Serve on the Altar Guild (change altar cloths) (*Time: as needed*)
- ☐ Create festive banners to beautify the church (*Time: as needed*)

Property

- ☐ Cleaning the church in preparation for worship (*Time: 3 hours each week.*)
- ☐ Participate in semi-annual church cleaning (*Time: 2 hours in Spring/Fall*)
- ☐ Serve on Property Committee (*Time: 1-hour monthly meeting or as needed*)

Projects where we need help now

- ☐ Ladies Bathroom needs light repaired.
- ☐ Litter patrol frontage.
- ☐ Back Sweet Olive line needs to be weeded.
- ☐ Back of Church needs weeded.
- ☐ Sprinklers need to be replaced with drip line.
- ☐ Plastic laid down and wood chips placed around play structure.
- ☐ Lawn mower repair and maintenance (oil changes, blade sharpening).
- ☐ Trim trees and shred material.
- ☐ Wash AC coils.