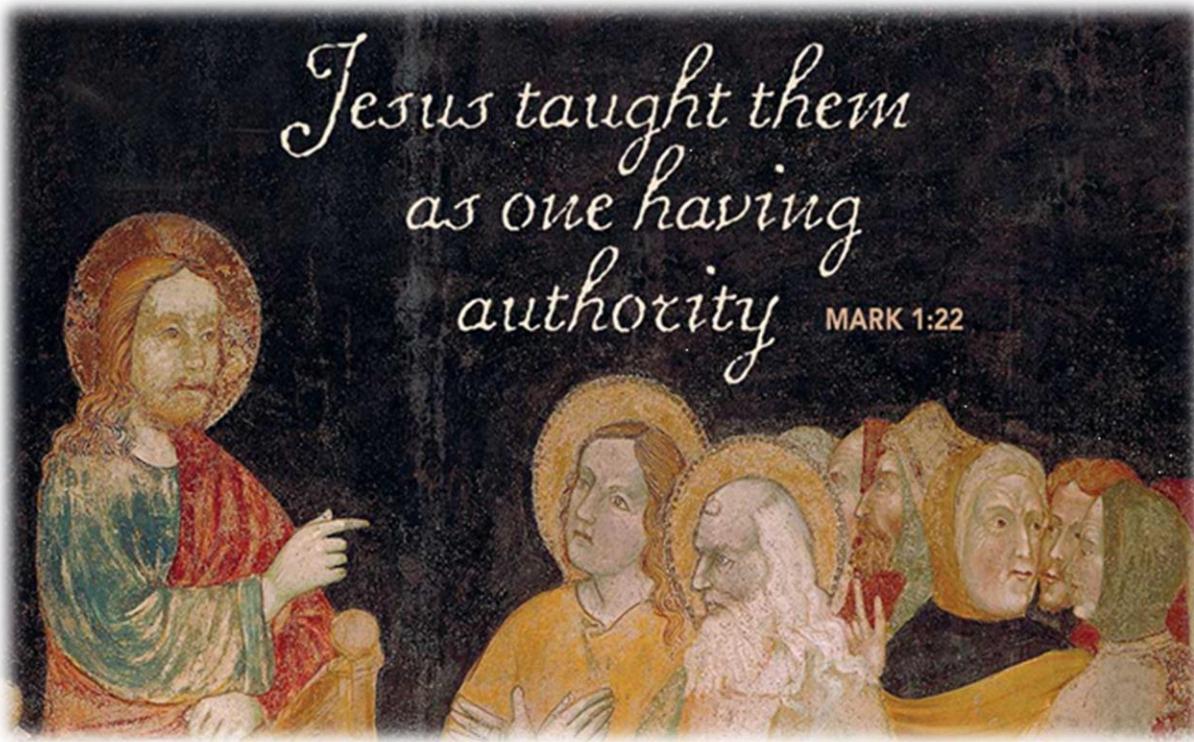




SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 31, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFSSION 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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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.



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
 2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
 4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
 though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
 to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
 through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
 and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
 and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
 that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - - fect day.
 who wrote with ea - ger or re - - luc - - tant pen.
 see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - - ior's face.
 may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

APOSTOLIC 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



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

Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[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 anymore, 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.

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.

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

⁴You 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.

⁶You 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.

⁸They 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 LESSON

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

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

Cantor:

1. Praise the God of all cre-a-tion, God of
4. Come, O Spir-it, kin-dle fire in the

All:

mer-cy and com-pas-sion:
hearts of all your peo-ple: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Praise the Word of truth and life!

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, from the 1st chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Gregg Hoffmann

Refrain

We eat the bread of teaching, drink wine of wisdom, are given here a taste of the kingdom. To-gether joined, the great-est and the least, we all are one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.

1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our
 2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and
 3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her

hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in - vi - gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre - rich - ness now is bring-ing us this joy - ous cel - e - ta - tion to the ban - quet of sal - va - tion. par - ing, know her lov - ing in the shar - ing. bra - tion; eat and drink in ju - bi - la - tion.

APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of the 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 \ddagger resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS 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 all 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, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, first responders, military personnel, 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 struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or without shelter, and all in any need especially, Scott, Jeremy, Larry, Martha, Anna, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Pat, Mary, Julie, Bob, Neal, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Steve, John, Bea, Jack, Eric, Doug, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Theresa, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the concerns of this congregation, including those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this parish and for other needs in our community known only to you, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

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.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.

Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

“Lord of the Dance”

Virtual Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *(Stand)*

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

O God, receive the gifts we bring like a parent receives their child, with arms open wide.

Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav-en,
hal - low-ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy
will be done on earth as it is in heav-en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
All:
For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er - more. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Living together in these days and wearied by all they demand of us; we lift our prayers and hopes to God.

Healing Lord, you know the pain of your people. We pray for those who suffer from this pandemic. Give strength to the sick, to care providers, and to those who are harmed in any way. Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Bless us with effective vaccines that are available to all. Make us witnesses for you in this time, so that we, your people, become a sign of Emmanuel. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, [†] Son, and Holy Spirit, fill you with light and hope eternal.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Word of God Speak”

1. I'm finding myself at a loss for words,
and the funny thing is, it's okay.
The last thing I need is to be heard,
but to hear what You would say. *Chorus*

Chorus

Word of God, speak.
Would You pour down like rain,
washing my eyes to see.
Your majesty, to be still and know
that You're in this place?
Please let me stay and rest
in Your holiness.
Word of God speak.

2. I'm finding myself in the midst of You,
beyond the music, beyond the noise.
All that I need is to be with You,
and in the quiet hear Your voice. *Chorus*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the light of Christ for the world.

Thanks be to God.

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