

St. Matthew New Life Lutheran Church  
Worshiping at Dearing Chapel  
12355 Fort Caroline Road

January 31, 2021  
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

**Introduction to the day**

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

**GATHERING**

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

**GATHERING SONG**

**Jesus You Are My Healer**

**PRAISE TEAM**

Jesus Son of God only You can save me  
Suffering on the cross You gave Your all  
Willingly paid the cost for me  
Now I am free to worship

*Chorus*

Jesus You are my Healer  
Jesus touch me and I will be free  
For by Your stripes I am healed I am healed  
Jesus You are my Savior  
Jesus You are my Strength and my Shield  
I put my trust in Your name in Your name Jesus  
(Jesus Jesus Jesus)

Lord Your name is great a refuge I can run to  
A shelter from the storm a faithful Friend  
And I can depend on You my God my King  
I lift my voice and worship *Chorus*

**WELCOME**

*(We stand as we are able)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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 tongues, 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.**

## **OPENING SONG**

## ***God, Whose Almighty Word***

**ELW #673**

1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

2 Christ, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place

let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.

### **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**

### **SETTING 8**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,  
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,**

**Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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.**

**WORD**

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*spoken by the assembly as we stand for the reading of the gospel.*)

L: A reading from Deuteronomy.

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

*Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

[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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 111**

<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.**

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

<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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**SETTING 8**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

<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.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Healer of Our Every Ill*

**ELW #612**

*Refrain*

Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

2 In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

3 Give us strength to love each other,  
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

4 You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

A: We confess our common faith in 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 resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(We are seated)*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition:*

Leader: let us pray,

**All: have mercy, O God.**

**Peace** *(We share the blessing of Christ's peace while remaining in our seats. Please offer that same blessing to a loved by text/email.)*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERINGS MAY BE PLACED IN THE PLATE LOCATED BY THE DOOR AS YOU  
ENTER OR LEAVE WORSHIP**

*(We stand)*

**Offertory**

**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.**

**Offering Prayer**

A: Let us pray. O God,  
**receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her 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.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW #190**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God:  
    you are the Life and Light of all.  
  
By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**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.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus.  
Come and be fed

#### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *(We are seated as we share the meal at our seats.)*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given and shed for you.

#### **SONG DURING COMMUNION COME TO THE TABLE**

**ELW #481**

Come to the table of mercy,  
prepared with the wine and the bread.  
All who are hungry and thirsty,  
come, and your souls will be fed.  
Come at the Lord's invitation;  
receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
Eat of the bread of salvation;  
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*(We stand)*

#### **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A; Let us pray. Christ Jesus,  
**at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

***This Little Light of Mine***

**ELW #677**

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**