St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – recording

**Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

Prelude: Meditation on *“Azmon”*

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn: *“Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”* **LBW # 559, vs 1 - 5**

Confession & Forgiveness

Greeting & Kyrie

Canticle of Praise: *“Glory to God…”*

Prayer of the Day

First Reading, Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm # 111

Second Reading, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Holy Gospel, Mark 1:21-28

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: *“Take My Life, That I May Be”* **– LBW # 406, vs 1 - 6**

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

Blessing

Dismissal

Sending Hymn: *“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”* - **LBW # 370, vs 1 - 4**

Postlude: Voluntary on *“Webb”*

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**Service Supplement**

**(Congregational responses are in bold print)**

***The community of faith comes together in worship to praise God and be nurtured by His Word and Sacrament. As the prelude begins, prepare to worship, use opportunities during the service to practice silence, to focus upon God, and to offer prayer.***

Prelude Meditation on *“Azmon”* Mark Hurley

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Bill Gies

Gathering Hymn *“Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”* **LBW # 559, vs 1 - 5**

***Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise, The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!***

***My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of your name.***

***The name of Jesus charms our fears And bids our sorrows cease, Sings music in the sinner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.***

***He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free. His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.***

***To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.***

Confession & Forgiveness *(Pastor)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars. **Amen.**

Let us come before God, confessing our sin…

Holy and merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagle’s wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen.**

Hear the voice from heaven: “You are my own, my beloved.” God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God’s reign. **Amen.**

Greeting *(Pastor)*

The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie *(Worship Assistant)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** 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. **Lord, have mercy**. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy**. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise *“Glory to God…”* *(Worship Assistant)*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth. **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day *(Pastor)*

Let us pray…O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *(Worship Assistant)*

*God would raise up for the people Israel a new prophet who is like Moses. The people were instructed to listen to him, for out of his mouth would come the Lord’s words. If a prophet was found by God to speak words other than the Lord’s, that prophet would suffer death, thus proving whether the prophets’ words were trustworthy.*

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 — 16just 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 anymore, lest I die.’ 17And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 18I 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. 19And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. 20But 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.’” This is the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm # 111 - read responsively *(Worship Assistant)*

*God’s work is full of splendor and majesty, remembered throughout all generations, wrote the psalmist. He is the God of justice and mercy: feeding the people, giving them land, and keeping his covenant with them. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

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

**Great are the deeds of the Lord! They are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work is full of majesty and splendor, and his righteousness endures forever.

**He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**He has shown his people the power of his works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; all his commandments are sure.

**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his Name.

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 *(Worship Assistant)*

*Paul reminded the people that they have a duty to those who are weak in the faith. It is not good to be puffed up with knowledge for the sake of knowing things, or to insist on one’s rights just because one is entitled to something. Rather, Paul said, Christians are to care for the young and weak in faith, so their faith is built up.*

1Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. 2If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. 3But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. 4Therefore, 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.” 5For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as indeed 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. 7However, 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. 8Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For 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? 11And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. 12Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. This is the Word of God, word of life, **thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28 *(Pastor)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the Sabbath day, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught the people. They were astonished at his ability and sincerity. A man with an unclean spirit approached him, yelling at him in fear. Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of the man and to be quiet. All who were gathered were amazed at his authority.*

21Jesus, Simon, Andrew, James and John went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23And 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.” 25But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” 26And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27And 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.” 28And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. This is the gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Bill Gies

Hymn of the Day *“Take My Life, That I May Be”* **LBW #** **406, vs 1 - 6**

***Take my life, that I may be Consecrated, Lord, to thee; Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.***

***Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love;Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.***

***Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King; Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.***

***Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect, and use Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.***

***Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.***

***Take my love; my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.***

Nicene Creed *(Pastor)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church *(Pastor & WA)*

*(P):* As God’s beloved people made radiant by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God’s good creation. ***A brief silence.***

*(W):* Father God, you are the source of all comfort. We pray for all those who are mourning, in pain, or struggling with trials. May they gain strength in the knowledge of your promise of eternal life, and know your abiding presence in the here and now. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(W):* Wise and Good Father, help us to acknowledge you as the source of all wisdom and not to lean on our own understanding. We praise your holy name for giving us the freedom to come to you through prayer in all matters and at all times. Your word is faithful and trustworthy, so let us be guided by your steadfast ways in all we do. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(W):* Gracious Lord, you provide for all our needs of both body and soul. Create in us a grateful heart to receive all that you provide and to praise you through meaningful worship together. Teach us to be more Christ-like in all we do that we may continue to build up your church for the sake of the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(W):* Almighty Lord, you are a wise and generous God. We pray for the wisdom of our elected leaders in our community, state, and country. We ask for your guidance and continued presence with them as they make decisions concerning your people. We also pray for the well-being of our leaders and that they would be of sound mind and body so they could do their important work. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(P):* Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer *(Pastor)*

Let us pray the prayer our Savior taught us…**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.**

Blessing *(Pastor)*

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal *(Worship Assistant)*

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Service Supplement**

**(Congregational responses are in bold print)**

Sending Hymn *“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”*  **LBW # 370, vs 1 - 4**

***Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love; The unity of heart and mind Is like to that above.***

***Before our Father’s throne We pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear, And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free; And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.***

Postlude Voluntary on *“Webb”* Mark Hurley