

# *Healing Waters Lutheran Parish*

## BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany - Lectionary 4  
Sunday, January 31, 2021*

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# Gathering

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

**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.**

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.*

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."

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: PSALM 111 *READ RESPONSIVELY.*

<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.**

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: MARK 1:21-28

*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.*

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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

*Meditative song.*

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.**

## 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.

...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.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# Meal

## OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

# Sending

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

## BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## *Gathered in Faith ~ Sent to Serve*

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