

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Bold type indicates Congregational responses

Introduction

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.

Prelude "Great Is the Lord"

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

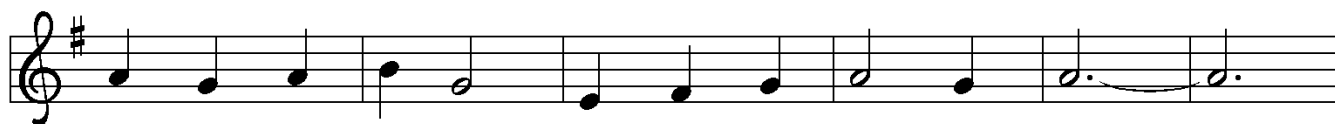
Gathering Song: "Christ Be Our Light" ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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Greeting

P: 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.

Call to Worship

All are invited to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of God's claim on us.

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Receive the promise of baptism:

You are God's child; ✠ your sins are forgiven.

Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.

Amen.

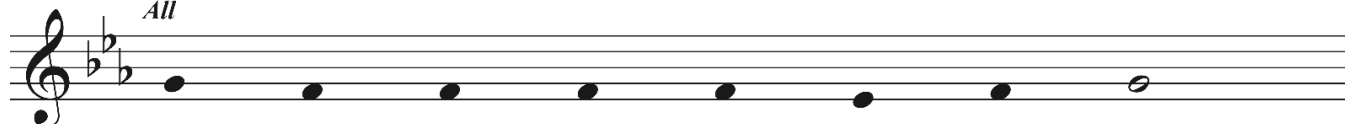
Hymn of Praise

Assisting Minister



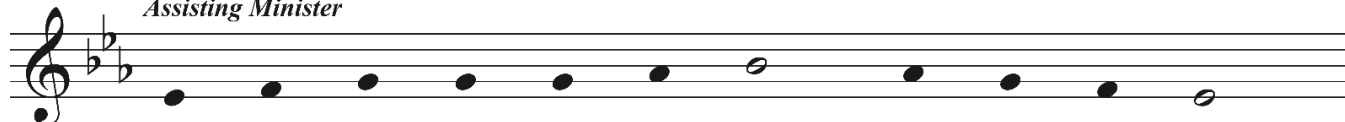
O ser - vants of God, let us sing our praise.

All



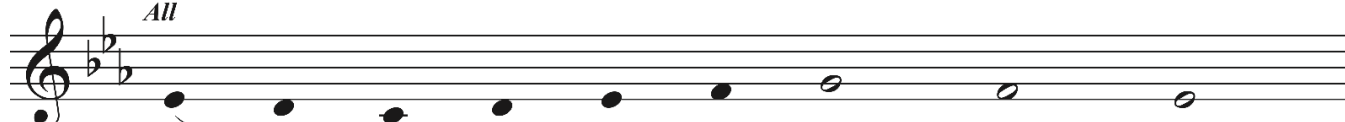
We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



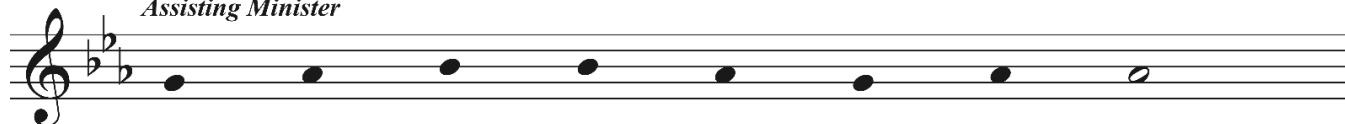
From the ris - ing of the sun to its set - ting,

All



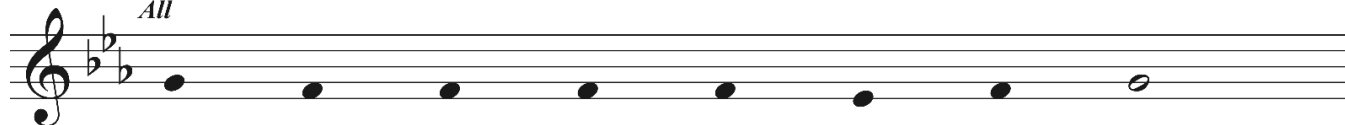
We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



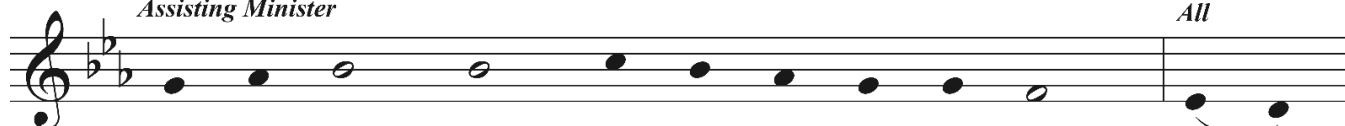
You lift up the weak and hun - gry.

All



We bless your ho - ly name, O God.

Assisting Minister



And your glo - ry shines a - bove the heav - ens We

All



bless your ho - ly name, O God.

All



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each
2. (You) walk with us a - long the way, your
3. (Re) - freshed by sab - bath rest this day, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing
Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now for
wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ's un -



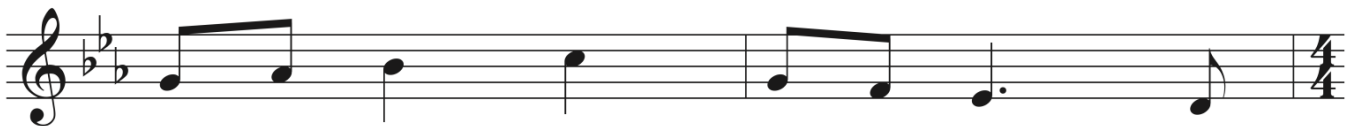
on our life, and all cre - a - tion sings your
each new day, our un - known guest, our host and
fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you
feast. Grant those who share this ho - ly meal the
home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and
faith and vi - sion to - ly be - lieve that
sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to your dear Son, re -
hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by
mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death. 2.You
grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3.Re
bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

Prayer of the Day

L: 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.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

L: [Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹his 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.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 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. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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

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

**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

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

**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

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

You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures
forever.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

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.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—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.

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. “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. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 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? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 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.

Bell Choir “Joshua Fit the Battle” arr. Thomas Gregory

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 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." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 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." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn of the Day: "Dearest Jesus at Your Word"..... ELW 520

1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and

gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Installation of the Church Council

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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 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 and all that exists, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, 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 living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need especially those on our prayer list and those whose names we lift up to you now...., also for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, and all who care for people in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, 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.**

Offering

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Offertory Music

Offertory Prayer

P: Creator of our days and nights, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us when we struggle and doubt and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

P: Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, ✠ and give you peace this day and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude: "I Am God"

Dearest Jesus at Your Word

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
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