



Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit

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DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Improvisation

(Psalm Prelude on Psalm 111 vs. 10: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*)

Last week, our organist presented a psalm prelude by English composer Herbert Howells. These works were conceived as free meditations on the text of various psalm verses, rather than any sort of arrangement of pre-existing musical material. They are highly rhapsodic in nature and likely had their origins in Howell's own organ improvisations. This week, our organist will try his hand at improvising his own psalm prelude, based on our psalm antiphon for this week, taken from Psalm 111, vs. 10.

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.
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.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo-ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

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

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.

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 any more, 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.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 111

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 111:10

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress
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¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. REFRAIN**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity. REFRAIN**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise en- | dures forever. REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I 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.

A reading from First 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

ELW #169

The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.



Cantor: The people who sat in darkness have seen | a great light;*
for those who sat in the shadow of death | light has dawned. (Matt. 4:16)

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.

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 Steve Springer



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934-2003
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and lead us in prayer for the church, the world, and the needy.

Holy Lord, we learn from your Word of your great healing power, and so we boldly pray for healing in your church:

Heal it of schisms, divisions, and causes of offence to those who would believe. Where it is in error, lead it to the way of truth. Where it is persecuted or violently attacked, strengthen its resolve to rebuild and continue in faithfulness. Prosper and advance your Word in every land through prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing of the earth:

Where your creation has been exploited, where storms have wreaked havoc, or drought caused crops to fail, restore all to order, beauty and fruitfulness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing of the world and our nation:

Send the powers of evil reeling, and bring justice to the nations. Heal our country of its great divisiveness, and the malice that leads to violence. Instill our leaders and all responsible for the well-being of civil society with your wisdom, that we may be delivered from discord and strife.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for our loved ones and ourselves:

O Lord, the gospel reveals your authority in teaching and healing. Help us to be agents of your healing to others through our prayers and our service. As you are mindful and faithful to your covenant, provide for all who suffer illness, hospitalization or any malady. Minister to those we name before you as well as those who are forgotten, especially the hungry and homeless.

Strengthen caregivers, health-care providers, hospice workers and home-health aides.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, although you are hidden from our eyes, you reveal yourself and your promises through Jesus Christ, your Son, and we do not die. Keep us ever confident of the resurrection and bring us at last into the company of all the saints.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE 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.**

MEDITATIONAlleluia Bell Choir

Adagio e Dolce (from Organ Sonata no. 3 in d minor, BWV 527)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Bach's trio sonatas for organ are one of his most original contributions to organ compositions. They are works based on two equal melodic lines, played above a Basso Continuo line in the pedal. The slow movement from Sonata no. 3 is gentle, beautiful, and highly ornamental. Bach himself must have liked this movement, as it is a reworking of a lost composition that then made another appearance as the slow movement from his Concerto for flute, violin, and harpsichord, BWV 1044.

COMMISSIONPastor Stephen Springer

BLESSING

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.



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 O fallen human race! be now and ever giv'n
 Look and be saved through faith alone, by saints below and saints above,
 be justified by grace! the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Toccata (from Toccata, Villancico, y Fuga, Op. 18)
 Alberto Ginastera (1916-1983)

Alberto Ginastera was an Argentinian composer who is recognized as being one of the pre-eminent 20th-century composers from the Americas. His music is simultaneously tonal and atonal, and highly inventive. This toccata is taken from a larger work, and features block chords played on full organ, interspersed with virtuosic flourishes.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Lector: John Hoelter
Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston
Cantor: Eric Holtan