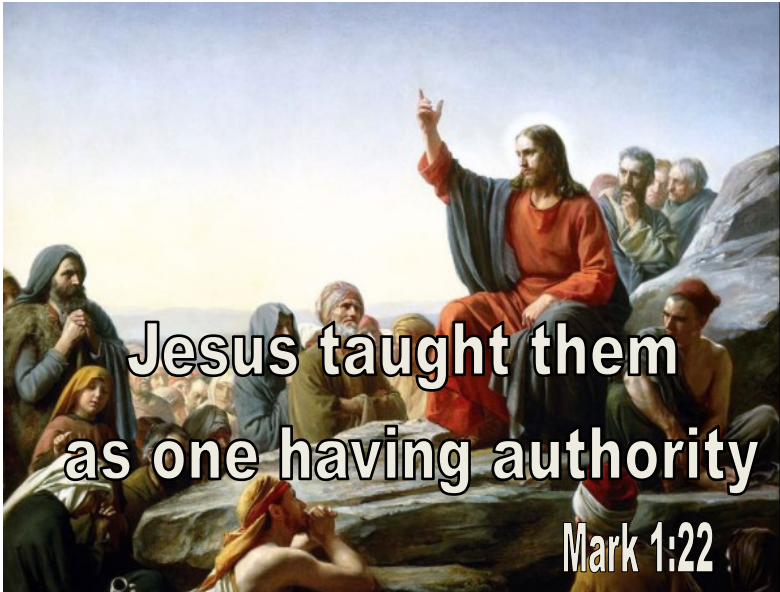


4th Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 31, 2021



TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 NORTH SIXTH STREET, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA 16601

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VISIT TRINITY ONLINE

TrinityAltoona.com | Facebook.com/TrinityAltoona

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.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Every Member Ministers
 Elizabeth Hess Pastor
 Ralph Grove Organist
 Cindy Finnegan Minister of Music

Lectors

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM

Acolytes

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM

Ushers

..... 6:30 PM
 8:15 AM
 10:45 AM



Total donations for 2021 through January 24, 2021 \$8,402.00

Weekly average \$2,100.50

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-WORSHIP MEDITATION:

PASTOR: Let us read together Mark 12:28-31 (the Jesus Rule)

ALL: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbor as yourself.

PASTOR: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity ☩ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Loving God,

C: we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen**

*ENTRANCE HYMN

*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray....

C: 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 LESSON 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.

L: A reading from Deuteronomy

[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. 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." 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."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM: Psalm 111

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

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. R**

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. R**

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. R**

SECOND LESSON 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.

L: A reading from Corinthians

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.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the First Chapter

C: **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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

FOR THE CHILDREN

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

*APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

*PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

"Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you" Deuteronomy 16:17

OFFERING

*THE PRAYERS

A: Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Lord in your mercy

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

C: 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

***BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace

C:  A - men

The musical notation shows a treble clef on a five-line staff. The notes are: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. A slur covers the A4 and B4 notes. The piece ends with a double bar line. Below the staff, the text 'A - men' is written, with a small square symbol under the 'A'.

***CLOSING HYMN**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Mark 12:28-31

C: Love God, Love others.

***POSTLUDE**

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, January 31 — Saturday, February 6, 2021

Sunday 9:30 AM Live Virtual Service

Monday

Tuesday 9:00 AM Bible Study
7:00 PM Council Meeting

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday 6:30 PM Worship/Communion

Sunday, February 7 8:15 AM Worship/Communion
10:45 AM Worship/Communion



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

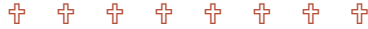
In person worship will start again on **Saturday, February 6**.
Worship times are Saturday 6:30 pm and Sunday 8:15 am and 10:45 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will begin on **Sunday, February 14**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are grateful you are joining us today for worship. All who are baptized and receive communion in their home church are welcome to communion with us. In Christ's name we welcome our visitors and ask you to please introduce yourselves to Pastor Hess.



PASTORAL CARE

Would you like Pastor Eli to visit or call on a loved one that is in the hospital or at home? Take a moment and drop a note in the collection basket; the information will be given to Pastor. After service when talking to members of the congregation she is often told about more than one person in need of a visit so writing it down will give her the necessary information.

Be sure to include the name of the person in need along with where they are and their phone number. Please include your name and phone number, too, so Pastor can contact you if needed.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone who would like to help out delivering altar flowers to shut-ins please contact Patty Bennett at 944-4823. Ask anyone who has delivered flowers and they will tell you how much the flowers are appreciated.



ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP DATES

There is one open date for sponsoring flowers. If you are interested please contact Patty Bennett at 944-4823.

Available date: **April 18, 2021.**



SYNOD NEWSLETTER

The Synod Council voted to move the Lutheran Letter to an all-digital newsletter. Any congregation member who wishes to continue receiving the newsletter, please send your email address to Michelle Bossler at Michelle.Bossler@alleghenysynod.com

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Jim Aungst
Ted Baird
Tyler Bennett
Tina Chestney
Church HealthTeam
Church Council
Don Corl
Gary Crownover
Crownover/King Families
Sondra Deffibaugh
Jane Eamigh

Paul Hamilton
Kathy Hatch
Ron Heiss
Kristina Henderson
Doris Hollingshead
Martha Jones
Jessica McGraw
Bill McLaughlin
Cindy Murphy
Ken B. Myers
Ray Nycum

Angie Peacetree Family
Jaden Rhode
Shannon Family
Tom Simpson
Susie Stacey
Stenger Family
Jasmine Wilkins
Louise Yeager
Nancy Yeager

SHUT IN MEMBERS

Chris Burda

Audrey Deiluliis
Ron Green
Ken Kumpf
Marie Laich
Dawn Mangus
Bob Nearhoof
Arlene Roessing

ARMED FORCES

Sarah Brown
Jason Buck
Jim Buchanan
Kyle Eberhart
Nathan Frank
Ryan Maguire
Justin Patz
Jason Smith

Eric Sweet



FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Dustin Adams
Donnie Alwine
Janet & Charlie Aungst
Scott Aungst
Sandy Badorrec
Rick Beauchamp
Frank Bennett
Kris Bennett
Casey Bondarenka
Pat Burk
Dorothy Bush
John Bush
Tracee Cole
Scott Corl
Jim Cox Family
Raynoo Cox Family
Sandy Daddorek
Jim Deffibaugh
Jordan DeFrancisco
Zane Dodson
Miles Dunkelbarger
Scott Esch Family
Nancy & Bill Filler
Elsie Fogel
Garth Family
Haley Gehret
Dawn George
Amy Gleason
Amanda Gregg & Daughters
Ann Hanczaryk

Charles W. Harpster
Tim Harrison
Don Haslem
Danielle Hatfield
Dave Hogan
Jack Hoyne
Beth Ickes
Judy Johnson
Tom Klevan
Pastor John Klingeman
Kaylee Kruse
Lucya Kunkel
Jean Lane
Janelle Lehr
Raija Lind
Janet Luciano
Bernie Market
Sharon Mayers
Barb McConnell
Bob McConnell
Eddie McGee
McGilvery Family
Kathy McIntyre
Sharon McKeehan
Connie McKnight
Janelle Messner
Denny Miller
Harry Miller, Sr
Moore Family
Rudy Muccitelli

Bill & Penny Murphy
Wyatt Nite
David Orr
Zach Porta
Abby Remendowski
Katie Riggelman
Toran Robertson
Carl Ruckinger
Michael Ruckinger
Bill Senitko
Ronald Settle
C. Richard Shaffer
Patty Smith
Tina Spahn
Michael Stacey
Duane Stenger
Jennelle Straple
Denny Sullivan
George Sultage Sr
Michele Taylor
Robert Thomas Family
Blair Umholtz
Paul Wallis
Mary Walter
LuAnn Wilkinson-Doyle
James Wilt
Steve Wood

COULD HE BE THE ONLY ONE?

Who: Jesus, disciples, observant go-to-worship folks honoring the sabbath. And, yes, a man with an unclean spirit. (Could he be the only such soul in the congregation?)

What: Reading holy words, the domain of scribes and scholars, and a shocking teaching given “with authority.”

Where: In the synagogue.

When: On the sabbath.

Who is this one who cried out in the congregation? Was he a scared thief creeping from his hiding place? A lanky kid exhausted from bawling outside locked doors? An old man gasping beneath piles of ill-gotten wealth? A young woman cursing heaven by day and hell by night for reasons no one dares to name? A stumbling fugitive worn down by a lifetime of running? A robust profiteer, master of deception? An unjust judge solemnly wearing a robe woven from threads of secret favors? A miser in a mansion perched above slums? A hoarder of vengeance nursing metastasized hatreds? Have you seen, met, or known any of these among the congregation?

The one with an unclean spirit cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?” (Mark 1:24). Jesus silences the unclean spirit. But Jesus will not be the destroyer. The crucified one does not crucify. He does not build and fill prisons; he sets free. He does not shun, avoid, and send away; he calls the accursed to himself. He does not condemn the sinner; he rescues and saves.

Yes, they in the synagogue that day and we in the church this day are amazed. Jesus’ teaching with authority contradicts all the rules that anchor us to a spirit of despair. Good news, indeed.

