

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

January 31, 2021

Epiphany 4b – the tale end of the week of prayer for Christian Unity ... and for our congregation the time of year when we remember St. Timothy – remembering that many of our Anglican members called St. Timothy Anglican home.

Welcome to worship. ...

Thanks just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together. Look at the end of the video for all those names.

GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

GATHERING SONG

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 on 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The best way to tie a shoelace.

- One loop
- Two loop – bunny ears
- Push and tie

Which is the best way?

Which is the best way to be a Christian? A Lutheran or an Anglican or Roman Catholic.

- There are so many different groups of people who follow Jesus.
- In tying our shoe laces we always started with a cross ... or you could say we all start with Jesus

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet^[a] like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.^[b] ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet^[c] like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,^[d] who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet^[e] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ 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**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 1:21-28

Glory to you O Lord

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

- Some are leaders and some are followers
- Leadership many challenges ... we just have to follow Jesus and we will see wide swings from adulation & praise to wanting to throw him off a cliff.
- Look more closely at leadership in the time around Moses ... today's reading from near the end of Moses' time.
- It was a different time. Not comparable to how we do things in our time. But there is still something to learn from how things were back then and how leadership and faith intersect.
- Moses – Moses was the best. Keeping in mind how unwilling Moses was to take on the role of leader. How he brought others into leadership.
- And the community were facing a future without Moses: the people said “we can't do it”
- God agreed – you got that right And maybe that is a great place to start! That is certainly where Moses started.
- But God continued on: I will provide a leader. but there are some conditions
- I will expect a lot of a leader – well of course. Much is expected of a leader. They carry a heavy responsibility. BUT
- God says, “I will expect a lot of a follower” – we often think that those in leadership as the people who bear the responsibility You know: The buck stops here. But that is not the view that we have from the Word of God that we read today.
- Our Bible reading is from a different time and place... leaders aren't the only ones with responsibility Followers have responsibilities as well.
- Leaders – followers continuum we are usually both in different areas of our lives
- How would is life different when both followers and leaders are responsible? Less pointing of fingers of blame ... more engagement
- How is faith different when both followers and leaders are responsible?
- Stronger community ... a shared responsibility. In the places where we are leaders: trusting that God will guide us .. confident in our leadership or as confident as possible. And in the places where we are followers: taking our own responsibility seriously and again, trusting that God will guide us.
- That makes for a strong and caring community. Which is both a gift and a responsibility.

HYMN #720 Take, oh, take me as I am 814

Take, oh take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;

set your seal upon my heart and live in me. (X 2)

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. Amen.

Let us confess our sin: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words “Let us pray” and you can make the prayer your own by responding **“Have mercy, O God.”**

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 especially The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada and the dean, council, and congregations of the Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and Seaway Areas of the Eastern Synod

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 wellbeing 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, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, and all in any need especially Elsie, Audrey,

Orville and Carol, Bruce, Gloria, Anna Marie, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Gordon, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*.

In the midst of suffering may God's peace and mercy surround them;

Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: our new way of worshipping, those who need to travel, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God of this place and for all needs in our community. Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

We thank you for the ministry of Timothy. Strengthen us by his example that we might stand fast in all our adversities and live in true godliness.

Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

those who live in vulnerable circumstances: the homeless, the unemployed and under employed, those living in outbreak in care homes, correctional facilities, and prisons. We pray for safety for the Alhamad – Wahid family, the Iqbal family and all refugees living in precarious situations.

Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who care for others in our community and around the world. Especially we pray for health care workers, caregivers, essential workers, and those who are undertaking the immense task of vaccinating our province, country, and the world. Fill them with compassion and give them the strength and energy to continue their work.

Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

We pray for international seminary student Tewodros (pronounced Tedros) and his family as they prepare to move to Saskatoon in the near future. Let us pray . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

For the covenant of 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 Saviour. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and a Father we pray in the words 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.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

God the Creator strengthen you

Jesus the beloved fill you

And the Holy Spirit, the comforter, keep you in peace. **AMEN**

God in peace. Be the light of Christ.

THANKS BE TO GOD

SENDING SONG #655 Son of God Eternal Savior (vs. 2, 4)

As you, Lord, have lived for others,
 so may we for others live.
 Freely have your gifts been granted;
 freely may your servants give.
 Yours the gold and yours the silver,
 yours the wealth of land and sea;
 we but stewards of your bounty
 held in solemn trust will be.

Son of God, eternal Savior,
 source of life and truth and grace,
 Word made flesh, whose birth among us
 hallows all our human race:
 by your praying, by your willing
 that your people should be one,
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
 here on earth your will be done.

THANKS

Worship Assistant: Tannis Sharp

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

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