

Sunday, January 28, 2017
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

PRELUDE

"When Morning Gilds the Sky"

Robert Hobby

***GATHERING SONG**

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O rushing wind that art so strong,
you clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, Alleluia!
O rising morn in praise rejoice,
O lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
O fire so masterful and bright
providing us with warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All you who are of tender heart,
forgiving others take your part,
sing praises, Alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
and praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***GREETING**

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

G **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Gloria, Gloria, Gloria”

pg. 176

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Compassionate God,*

G **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!**

ANTHEM

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Graham Godfrey

Chancel Choir

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:] 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.”

Reflection

What does Moses tell the people will happen when he is gone? (verse 15) Who had asked for such a prophet? (verses 16-18) What are the people to do when they hear the words of the prophet? (verse 18) Who will make sure of this? (verse 19) What will happen to someone who

speaks the words of another god, or who says they are speaking for God but God has not commanded them to speak? (verse 20) Who is a prophet in our present day? How can we know whether they are speaking for God or not? Does God ever tell a prophet to speak “fake news”?

Psalm 111

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.**

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.**

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.**

Reflection

What does it mean to “fear the Lord”? (verse 1) What will happen to those who fear the Lord? (verses 2-3) Do you think verse 3 means that those who are wealthy are more righteous than those who are not? What do the righteous do with their righteousness? (verse 4) (Just to remind us, righteousness means being in a right relationship with God. Those who are righteous fear the Lord.—verse 1) What do the righteous do with their wealth? (verse 5) What will happen if they hear bad news? (verses 7-8) Why do you think they are remembered forever? (verses 6, 9) How do those who are their enemies (“the wicked”) react when the righteous act righteously? (verse 10) Who do you remember for their righteousness? When has someone else keeping God’s law been a blessing to you?

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about how 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 a sister or brother to sin.

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.

Reflection

What is the difference between knowledge and love? (verses 1-3) Can someone have knowledge of God without knowing God? Whose “knowing” is important to us? (verse 3) Paul uses the example of eating food offered to idols. What do those “in the know” know about such food? (verse 4) While it is true that idols are a figment of our imaginations, and there is really no God except God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom might this knowledge not be helpful? (verse 7) What else did those in the know, know? (verse 8) How might the Corinthians who go ahead and eat food offered to idols (which was most of the meat they could buy in the market) hurt others? (verses 9-11) Can you think of ways in which those who have knowledge in our situation might hurt others? To whom are we most responsible? (verse 12) What is our responsibility to those we might think of as “weaker” than we? (verse 13)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Alleluia!

***GOSPEL**

Mark 1:21-28

The story has barely begun, and already the battle is joined. Jesus sides with humanity against every force that would bring death and disease. These forces recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. This, however, is only the first fight. The war will go on much longer.

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.

Reflection

Where are Jesus and his followers in this text? (verse 21) Capernaum is a base of Jesus’ ministry. What does Jesus do there on the Sabbath? The scribes would have taught by reading what others had taught. How was his teaching different from that of the scribes? The authority of Jesus is demonstrated not only by his teaching. What else happens? (verses 23-24) Although we “know” (as those in Corinth “knew”) that there is no such thing as demons or unclean spirits, there are many Christians, especially in Africa, who know and experience the power of such spirits. Perhaps they “know” more than we do! What does the unclean spirit say? (verse 24) What do you think it means that the unclean spirit recognizes Jesus? How does Jesus respond? (verse 25) Why do you think Jesus commanded silence from the unclean spirit? How do the people respond to Jesus’ healing the man? (verses 27-28) Why might Jesus not want to be famous?

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Have You Come To Heal Us?"

Rev. Roger Lenander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Majesty"

Majesty, worship his majesty:

unto Jesus be all glory,

honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority

flows from His throne

unto His own;

his anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high

the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify

Christ Jesus, the king.

Majesty, worship his majesty:

Jesus who died, now glorified,

King of all kings. (repeat from beginning)

(ending)

**Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.**

***CREED**

**I believe, I do believe,
truly I believe it,
truly I believe it, truly I believe it.
I believe, I do believe,
truly I believe it,
truly I believe it, truly I believe it.**

**I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator,
Mighty Lord Creator, Mighty Lord Creator.
I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator,
Mighty Lord Creator, Mighty Lord Creator.**

**I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people,
Savior of the people, Savior of the people.
I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people,
Savior of the people, Savior of the people.**

**And I do believe in the Power of the Spirit,
Power of the Spirit, Power of the Spirit.
And I do believe in the Power of the Spirit,
Power of the Spirit, Power of the Spirit.**

**I believe, I do believe,
truly I believe it,
truly I believe it, truly I believe it.
I believe, I do believe,
truly I believe it,
truly I believe it, truly I believe it.**

***PRAYER SONG**

"The Spirit Intercedes for Us"

ELW 180

**The spirit intercedes for us
with sighs too deep
for words to express. Oh.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that God our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For those who speak your word throughout the church in the world, O God, and for educational institutions that prepare leaders, that you will lift up prophets in our congregations, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the works of God revealed in and through creation, for an end to pollution and unjust use of natural resources, and for good weather this season, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For peace and justice throughout the world, for political leaders at all levels, and for those who provide public services, that you will grant them wisdom as they carry out their tasks, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed, and their advocates; for the sick, *especially Jim, Roxanna, Mary Anna, Kay, and Linda* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*), and their caregivers; and for the weak in body, mind, and spirit, that your compassion be felt by all in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those in our congregation celebrating special events, for those missing from our worship today, and for friends and family both near and far, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who witnessed your love in their lives and in this world, that through them our own faith will grow stronger, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY *“Sing of the Lord’s Goodness”* vv. 1&2

**Sing of the Lord's goodness,
Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us,
his love is for ever,
faithful to the end of days.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,**

melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

Power he has wielded,
honor is his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken,
one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.
Come, then, all you nations,
sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory,
praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

C receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

C **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P *With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.*

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P *Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.*

*Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P *All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P *Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

C **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!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *O Morning Star, fair and bright,*
C **you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *The God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.*

G **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG** *“How Majestic Is Your Name” / “I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”*

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name in all the earth!
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic
is your name in all the earth!
O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name,
Prince of Peace, mighty God,
O Lord God Almighty.**

**I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing, I will sing.
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.
With my mouth
will I make known**

**thy faithfulness, thy faithfulness.
With my mouth
will I make known
thy faithfulness to all generations.**