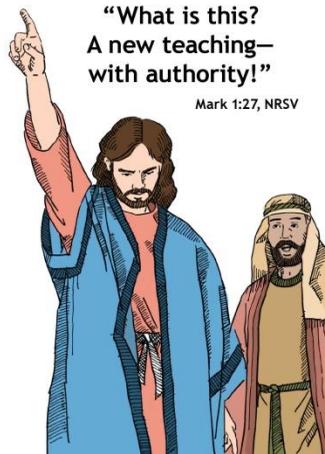


January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Proper 4)

Ministry of the Word



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The Gathering of the Community

Prelude

Opening Hymn #500 "Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant"

Text by Richard Gillard

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| 1 Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too. | 5 When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony. |
| 2 We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. | 6 Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too. |

Greeting and Collect for Purity

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Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God

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Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

People **and peace to his 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 upon us; you are seated at 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.

Collect of the Day*Celebrant* Let us pray.*People* **Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.****The Proclamation of the Word**

Reading:

I Corinthians 8:1–13

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ 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.” ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords— ⁶ 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.

⁷ 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. 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. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. ¹⁰ 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? ¹¹ So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

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| <p>1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.</p> <p>2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! they are studied by all who delight in them.</p> <p>3 His work is full of majesty and splendour, and his righteousness endures for ever.</p> <p>4 He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.</p> <p>5 He gives food to those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.</p> | <p>6 He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the lands of the nations.</p> <p>7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice, all his commandments are sure.</p> <p>8 They stand fast for ever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.</p> <p>9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; Holy and awesome is his name.</p> <p>10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.</p> |
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Generous and bountiful God, give us grace always to thank you and share your gifts with others, that the world may be filled with the joy of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebrant Alleluia

People **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Celebrant Jesus went about Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease.

People **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel:

Mark 1:21–28

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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,

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“Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions 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 commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Nicene Creed

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Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

People **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

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Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

People **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

People **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

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Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of steadfast love, may our offering this day, by the power of your Holy Spirit, renew us for your service. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Doxology*Celebrant* Glory to God,*People* **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.****Blessing****Announcements****Dismissal***Subdeacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.****Closing Hymn #560 "God, Whose Almighty Word"**

Text by John Marriott

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| <p>1 God, whose almighty Word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!</p> | <p>3 Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove, speed on your flight! Move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace, and, in earth's darkest place let there be light!</p> |
| <p>2 Saviour, who came to bring on your redeeming wing healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind: now for all humankind let there be light!</p> | <p>4 Gracious and holy Three, glorious Trinity, wisdom, love, might, boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride: through the world, far and wide let there be light!</p> |

Today's Scripture Readings

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-12

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

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| Celebrant & Preacher | The Rev. Leonard Leader |
| Subdeacon | Doug Heyes |
| Reader | Hazel Perkin |
| Organist | Michael Leach |
| Intercessor | Geraldine Sperling |
| Videographer | Egan Done |