

ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship At Home

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday, January 17, 2021

This service is intended to be done alone or with your loved ones. The prayer and readings are the assigned ones for this Sunday.

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

Opening Prayer: Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings: First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20 – Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 - Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 1:43-51 – The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection: *Having read these readings, think on this:* Sometimes we feel as if we have no word from God, no vision, no place to come and see what God is doing, no center in a time of alienation. But, as the Psalm says, God has seen us and known us. More: in our baptism, God has called us, like Samuel, Philip, and Nathanael were called. Listen to these texts more deeply. In Jesus Christ heaven has opened. For us, the angels of God ascend and descend upon him more surely than they did upon Jacob's ancient Bethel (Genesis 28:12). In his death and resurrection, Jesus has become for us the lamp of God, the ark of God, and the house of God where we may come and see. The crucified and risen Christ, present in his word and sacraments — and present to us in the scriptures read in our homes — is today the place where we may meet God. Then, gathered into Christ's body by the Holy Spirit, we become together the temple of God, our own bodies now dedicated to bearing witness to God's love for our needy neighbors and for all the world.

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Here I Am, Lord" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #574).

Prayers of Intercession: *Then pray these prayers for our church and world:* As this week we observe the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and inaugurate the new President of the United States, let us offer our laments and petitions to God, responding to each with the words, "**In mercy, receive our prayers.**" O God, we lament the times when our churches have rejected collaboration with your worldwide family of grace and we pray for your blessing on the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, evangelicals, and independents, that all your people will follow your call to discipleship and grow deeper into our unity in Christ. O God, Shepherd of your people, hear our cries... We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions and we pray for an increased commitment to the care of your marvelous creation. O God, Gardener of the globe, hear our cries... We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of the people of America and the calls for international cooperation and we pray for President-elect Biden, for Vice President-elect Harris, and for all our elected members of Congress, that they fulfill their obligations to uphold and extend the common good. O God, Shield of the commonwealth, hear our cries... lament the uncontrolled rage and the senseless violence that recently defaced our nation and we pray that peace reign in our streets, that our capital cities be safe, that all citizens come to accept the new administration, and that a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation mark the next stage of our national life. O God, Peacemaker in our land, hear our cries... We lament the decades of ethnic injustices and racial prejudice that brought such suffering to many residents of our country and we pray that you bless the Indigenous peoples, descendants of Africans, and all immigrants to this land, and that you form us into a nation in which all are honored in equal measure. O God, Liberator of the oppressed, hear our cries... We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world and we pray that you bring health to the sick, comfort to the dying, resilience to health workers, prompt vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this scourge. O God, Physician and Nurse, hear our cries... We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears, and we pray that as with the boy Samuel, you speak to us in the night of our need. O God, Lover of our souls, hear our cries... We lament the lives of those who have

died, in storms, in riots, and in sickbeds. We praise you especially for the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and those we name here before you. . . .; and we pray that at the end, we join with all the members of your family in your presence. O God, eternal Arms of Mercy, hear our cries... Into your hands, O loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

If you have a hymnal, you may now sing or read "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #676)

We continue our worship with this prayer: Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the Scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the brokenhearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God. **We worship you, O God.**

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer: 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.

We end with reciting the Blessing: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace. Amen.

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Announcements and Further Prayer Requests

- Join Pastor Tom on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM on ZOOM as he leads us in a Bible study on Moses. This will run until February 9th. You can find a link on our website or call in to 1 929 205 6099 using Meeting ID# 843 9728 2129 and passcode 349704.
- Please keep in your prayers the following individuals: The family of Jane Goris, Beverly and Jim Penman, Dan Kramer, Joyce Zimmerman, Brian Volo, Jennifer Buchanan, Diane Kraft, Rick, Mike, Olivia Williams and family, Cathy Niccola, Matt Stzaba, Ben Richard, Joanne M., Robert Miller, Louis Volo Jr, Dottie Roehrig, Karen Geng, Sylvia and Joe Smith, Lorraine Pfohl, Jerry Peete, Tamara Proctor, Cheryl Rosati, Rosaria Phillippone, Robin Bengalio Richard, the Maris Family, Charlene Faleski, and those we name out loud and in the silence of our hearts.
- Pray for our world, that the vaccine for the coronavirus will be equitably and expediently distributed and shared.
- Pray for our nation, for God to give us patience, compassion, and wisdom as we transition administrators in Washington and other elected officials across the country.
- Pray for the greater Church, that those communities of faith struggling in the midst of these times might look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith for guidance, hope, and renewal.
- Pray for all those who are in the midst of suffering from the virus, those who have been exposed and now live in fear of its severity for them, and those unable to be with hospitalized loved ones.