



**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021
Morning Prayer**

Thanksgiving for the Word: Time after Epiphany

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.

Many and Great, O God

Wakantanka taku nitawa



Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -



qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;



ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
your fin-gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with



ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Text: Joseph R. Renville, 1779–1846; para. Philip Frazier, 1892–1964, alt.
Music: LAC QUI PARLE, Dakota tune

DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

PSALMODY

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.
Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!

The Sun of righteousness will arise with healing in his wings.
Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

- 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 delight in them.**
- ³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures 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 forever 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 faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SONG – Arise and shine

The image shows musical notation for the song 'Arise and shine'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 A - rise and shine, the pro - phet sang;
2 God's ris - ing sun, will light the way,
3 You will not need the sun by day

your light has come, the mes - sage rang.
 as peo - ple stream to dawn - ing's ray.
 nor moon by night, to light your way;

The shroud of dark - ness stripped a - way,
 Your o - pen gates will nev - er close,
 God's glo - ry and e - ter - nal might

God's glo - ry brings a bright new day.
 in bus' - ling day or night's re - pose.
 will be your ev - er - last - ing light.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

READINGS

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.”

Second Reading: 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.

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.

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.

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.

SERMON – The Rev. David Vanderlinde-Abernathy

HYMN OF THE DAY – Open your ear, O faithful people



1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
3 Is - ra - el comes to greet the Sa - vior,
4 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,



o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O
 they who have ears, then let them hear. They who would learn the
 Ju - dah is glad to see his day. From east and west the
 o - pen your ears and hear God's word. O - pen your hearts, O



roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.
 way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
 peo - ples trav - el, he will show the way.
 roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.



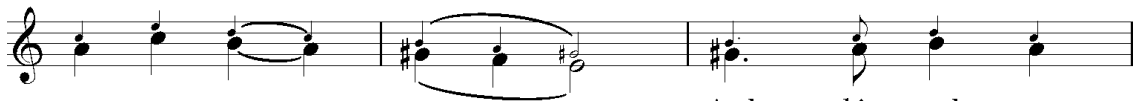
God has spo - ken to his peo - ple, Hal - le - lu - jah!



And his words are words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu -



jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! God has spo - ken to his peo - ple,
 To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra,



Hal - le - lu - jah! And his words are
 To - rah o - ra,



words of wis - dom, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 To - rah o - ra, Hal - le - lu - jah!

"Torah ora" is Hebrew for, "The Law is our Light."

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
 he has come to his people and set them free.
 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
 born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old
 that he would save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

Other intercessions may be added.

Almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor be overcome in adversity. In all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Almighty God bless us and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.**

Song – O for a thousand tongues to sing

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,
 2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim
 3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;
 4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,
 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;

1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.
 3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!

6 Glory to God and praise and love
 be now and ever given
 by saints below and saints above,
 the Church in earth and heaven.

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