

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, West Roxbury
Online Liturgy Sunday January 31, 2021
The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Old Testament

Lector. A reading from **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 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." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I 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. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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."

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

Psalm 111

1 Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *

and his righteousness endures for ever.

4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *

the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

5 He gives food to those who fear him; *

he is ever mindful of his covenant.

6 He has shown his people the power of his works *

in giving them the lands of the nations.

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *

all his commandments are sure.

8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *

because they are done in truth and equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his covenant for ever; *

holy and awesome is his Name.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; *

those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

his praise endures for ever.

The New Testament

Lector. A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Corinthians 8:1-13

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

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

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

Lector. The Word of the Lord.

People. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:21-28.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 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." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 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." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Dialogue Sermon: Everyone is to join the conversation.

The Priest will offer some thoughts and listeners may respond with comments or questions.

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving and free. We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth; We believe that people can change and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

As the people gathered in Capernaum to hear Jesus' words, so too have we come together to hear God's word. Let us boldly offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the world in which we live and to which we are called, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the nations of the world, and for world peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the church of Christ, zealous in mission, compassionate in service, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation and for our hearing the word, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who labor in the world and in the church, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are sick, especially Merilee, Paul, Mary, Beth, Jenny, Dianna, Joseph, Catherine and Brant, Carla, and Maureen, and Anita Caggiano and her family and for those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the homeless and for the refugees, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those with whom we rejoice and for those whose joy is known only in the secrets of their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

[Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.]

O God, we commend to your care all for whom we pray, in the confidence that your love for them is greater than anything we can know or imagine. Hear us, through Christ our Lord.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant. And now as let us pray as our Lord has taught us:

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,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Communion Prayer in this time of Pandemic

Celebrant

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, bring hope to the disheartened and wisdom to our leaders. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

Celebrant

May the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding, keeps your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And may the Blessing of God Almighty, The Father and the son be with us all and ever more. Amen

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thank you for joining us in prayer and witness today.