

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday January 31, 2021

4th Sunday of Epiphany

RCL: Mark 1:21-28

+ GATHERING +

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **AMEN.**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS +

God of goodness and mercy, help us as we open our hearts and confess our sins.

Jesus' teaching reminds us that we are lifelong students, yet we often let our pride or arrogance get in the way of actually listening to and learning from his words;

We become skeptical when the truth is right in front of us, and critical of those who teach or believe differently than we do;

We choose to hate what we don't understand or believe instead of building relationships with compassion, understanding, and patience;

At times we speak loudly about things that don't matter or in ways that are harmful to others;

Other times we are silent, observing what is happening, but taking no actions when it's most important;

We are truly sorry and ask for your forgiveness.

Help us to do what's right in the days to come;

Surround us and renew us with your grace.

AMEN

God is good, and loves us unconditionally, at all times and in all places. By grace we have been saved. In the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven.

AMEN.

+ PRAYER +

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.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **Mark 1:21-28**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** Teaching and Healing (Pages 254-255)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Option 3: Use questions for reflection + Coloring Sheet (page 4)

Questions:

+ What images come to mind when you hear the word "exorcism?"

+ How would you describe an unclean spirit?

+ What characteristics does a good teacher have? Who was or is an influential teacher in your life? What makes them so special to you?

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + We give thanks, gracious God, for the gift of teachers – all those who share knowledge and wisdom with others; we are grateful for their dedication and care for their students, their ability to adapt during difficult times, and their ambition to encourage others to become lifelong learners. Inspire us by your Spirit to find ways to support and care for those who teach, whether in schools, churches, businesses or in homes. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of mercy, there seems to be so much pain around us right now; people who are ill, hungry, grieving, facing addiction, lonely, coping with violence or abuse, those who are feeling rejected or forgotten, those facing financial hardships, people who are homeless and food insecure, and so many others who are suffering in some way; please come to them in tangible ways, surround them with love, support, and help so that they might know in their hearts how much they matter. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For young people everywhere; for their ambition, ideas, curiosity, and beautiful uniqueness they bring to the world; we pray for their protection, for them to know their worth, and for each of them to be surrounded by caring adults who will show them unconditional love and encouragement. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + The damage done to this planet by our own hands and neglect is lasting, dear Creator; forgive us for the ways we contribute to pollution and destruction of the land, trees, water and air, and guide us toward sustainable solutions that will restore this beautiful creation. Lord in your mercy, **AMEN.**
- + *Add your own prayers here....*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

+ 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.**

+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are a beloved child of God."**
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +

