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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

The Fourth Sunday After Epiphany - January 31, 2021

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1.8, 9*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, 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.**

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

All-Ages Song: *God Came To Us In Jesus*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

**Venite** *Psalm 95.1–7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the Lord is a great God, \*

**and a great king above all gods.**

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his for he made it, \*

**and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

**and 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. \*

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy 18:15–20.

*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.”*

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 111

Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, \*

**in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the deeds of the Lord! \*

**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work is full of majesty and splendour, \*

**and his righteousness endures for ever.**

He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; \*

**the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives food to those who fear him; \*

**he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

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

**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

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

**all his commandments are sure.**

They stand fast for ever and ever, \*

**because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;\*

**holy and awesome is his name.**

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

**those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter of 1 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. 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.*

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *God Whose Almighty Word* (CP #560)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

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

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*21They 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.*

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

*Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, “Lord hear our prayer.”*

*O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.*

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.*

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*We pray for one another: may we always be united in your service and love.*

[***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and thanksgivings, for yourself and others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

***Lord, hear and have mercy.***

*Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.*

***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.* ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Gracious God,*

*you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;*

*you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.*

*Grant our requests as may be best for us.*

*This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*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 Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Hail To The Lord’s Anointed* (CP #101)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**