

EPIPHANY 4

**Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Church
Howell, MI 48843
(517) 546-5265**

JANUARY 31, 2021

**2515 W. Grand River Ave
Pastor Mark Franck
www.howellprinceofpeace.org**

WELCOME!

If you are a friend who's been here before, welcome back. If you are a first-time visitor, welcome! We'd appreciate it if you would leave your name and address in one of our guest books located in either entry way. Children's bulletins and crayons are available on the counter beneath the mailboxes in the fellowship hall. If we can serve you in any way, please let us know God bless your worship!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

AS MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, OUR MISSION IS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S GOSPEL OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST, NURTURE BELIEVERS, AND EQUIP THEM FOR LIVES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

The time before worship begins is a sacred time for meditation, prayer, and worship preparation. As we gather in the sanctuary, lets quietly reflect on God's blessings and direction in the Scripture readings included in the worship folder.

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Service of the Word – page 38 in the front of the hymnal

HYMNS: 87, 353, 468, 559

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN 87: Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

**1 Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, your grace possessing, In your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before you, In your Church rejoice to live,
See your glory and adore you, Thankful for the grace you give.**

**2 Once far off but now invited, We approach your sacred throne,
In your covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages, See the star of mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages, Myst'ry great of love divine.**

**3 Hail, O all inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off'rings bring.
In your temples seek your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit, Live devoted to your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise.**

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.” 17 The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. 19 If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. 20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.”

THE PSALM: Psalm 1

Pastor: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

CONGREGATION: But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

CONGREGATION: Whatever he does prospers.

Pastor: Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

CONGREGATION: For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1 Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2 The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. 3 But the man who loves God is known by God. 4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 7 But not everyone knows this. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat such food they think of it as having been sacrificed to an idol, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. 8 But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. 9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. 10 For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, won’t he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? 11 So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 12 When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.

THE VERSE

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. Alleluia!

THE THIRD LESSON: Mark 1:21-39

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. 29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. 32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" 38 Jesus

replied, "Let us go somewhere else — to the nearby villages — so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

HYMN 353: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

**1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the one who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight,
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of
peace.**

**2 Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong, yet gentle,
word;
Praise the one who drove out demons with the piercing, two-edged
sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3 Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our
place;
Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the one who makes us one.**

THE SERMON TEXT: Mark 1:21-39

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. 29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. 31 So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. 32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" 38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else — to the nearby villages — so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." 39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Look At Me!

1 What does Jesus want us to see?

Verses 21 and 35

Verses 22 and 27

Verses 23-26, 39

Verses 30-34, 39

2 Why does Jesus want us to watch him?

Verses 22 and 27 Has Jesus changed?

Verses 23-26 and Verses 30-34 Has Jesus changed?

Verses 36-39 Has Jesus changed?

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed, page 41 in the front of the hymnal

OFFERING

The offering will be received as you are ushered out after the service in the fellowship hall so that offering plates are not passed.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 468: My God, My Father, Make Me Strong

1 My God, my Father, make me strong,
when tasks of life seem hard and long,
To greet them with this triumph song: Your will be done.

2 Draw from my timid eyes the veil to show,
where earthly forces fail,
Your pow'r and love must still prevail—Your will be done.

3 With confident and humble mind in service freedom I will find,
Praying through ev'ry toil assigned: Your will be done.

4 What seems impossible I dare; Yours is the call and yours the care.
Your wisdom shall the way prepare—Your will be done.

5 Heav'n's music chimes the glad days in;
Hope soars beyond death, pain and sin;
Faith shouts in triumph, love must win—Your will be done.

PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN 559: Lord of the Living Harvest

1 Lord of the living harvest that ripens o'er the plain,
Where angels soon will gather their sheaves of golden grain,
Accept our hands to labor, our hearts to trust and love,
And be with us to hasten your kingdom from above.

2 As lab'ers in your vineyard, Lord, give us work to do,
Content to bear the burden of weary days for you,
To ask no other wages When you will call us home
Than to have shared the labor that makes your kingdom come.

3 Be with us, God the Father; Be with us, God the Son
And God the Holy Spirit, Most blessed Three in One.
Make us your faithful servants You rightly to adore,
And fill us with your blessing both now and evermore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Hour follows our worship this morning.
In adult Bible hour we are studying Paul's letter to Titus. Join us!
2. Confirmation meets on Monday, February 1st, 3:30-5:00 pm.
3. Online Bible Class Continues.

The Format:

I send out weekly study guides in a congregational email on Mondays.

You have an opportunity to work through the study guides at home.

I post an online video in which I work through the weekly study guide on Wednesdays. This video is sent out as a congregational email, just like our weekly worship services.

This week, we continue our study of Peter's first epistle.

4. Thursday morning Bible class meets at 10:00 am. We are currently studying the book of Numbers.