



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**January 31, 2021
Rev. Debra North, Pastor
Ms. Molly Finkbiner, Director of Music
Ms. Maritza Oquendo, Parish Secretary**

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *BARBARA M.*

(Please stand as you are able.)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day to praise God!

With whole hearts, we come to give thanks to the Lord,

for God's works are great; God is gracious and merciful!

Holy and awesome is God's name.

So let's use this worship time to practice honoring God.

Rejoicing in our time together, let's praise God!

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

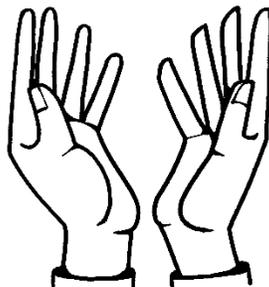
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

(Remain Standing)



HYMN OF PRAISE - GLORY TO GOD (*Spoken*)

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and father:
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the holy spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

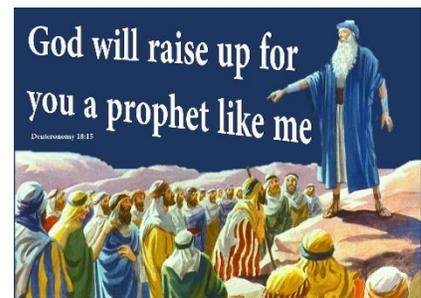
Amen.

(You may be seated)

FIRST LESSON **MIKE G**

The first lesson is found in 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. ¹⁸ 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.

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 **MIKE G**

(Read responsively.)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

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.**

SECOND LESSON **MIKE G**

The second lesson is found in 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise if you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Spoken)* **BARBARA M**

Alleluia. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. Alleluia.

GOSPEL *(Please remain standing.)* **MIKE G**



*The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:21-28.
Glory to you, O Lord.*

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

(You may be seated.)

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak* – LBW 403
(spoken)

- 1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let us seek
your straying children, lost and lone.**
- 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead
the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet;
oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed
your hung'ring ones with manna sweet.**
- 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach
the precious truths which you impart;
and wing our words, that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4 Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord,
until our very hearts o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Please rise if you are able).

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.

THE PRAYERS

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

(A brief silence.)

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (*especially*); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (*especially*), let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PRAYER LIST

Eddie, Cheryl, Carol and Craig, Bruce, Denis, Megan, Gertrude, George, Mike, Jennifer, Sue, Tina, Alex, Donna, Andrea, Ginger, Karen, Janet, Jacquie, Rachel, Jenn, Andrea, Ginger, R.C., Richard, Forrest, Roy, Jeanine, Leslie, Cory, Shirley, Deb, Kathy, Tom, Glen, Margery, Lillian K. and Members of the armed services, the congregation of St. Peters of Plainfield.

In Hospital: Bruce Kulp, Pr. Debby North

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

(please share the peace of Christ with others with a wave from your seat, then be seated.)

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. The gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, **receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

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

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN – *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God -- WOV 783 (spoken)*

- 1 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
 And its righteousness
 And all these things shall be added unto you
 Allelu, Alleluia**

- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you
 Seek and you shall find
 Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
 Allelu, Alleluia**

- 3 We do not live by bread alone
 but by every word
 that proceeds from the mouth of God
 Allelu, Alleluia**

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, B. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt 4:4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ!
Thanks be to God.



HYMN OF THE DAY – *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak* – LBW 403 (spoken)
Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

SENDING HYMN – *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God* -- WOV 783 (spoken)
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The bulletin sponsor is given to the Glory of God by Barbara Monroe in memory of her Mom Muriel on her February 1st birthday in heaven.

Supply Pastor: On February 7th, we will have Pastor Dennis Moore as a substitute.

Birthday Cards Requested for Shirley Fowler: Beth Larson sent the following request: On February 5, 2021 Shirley Fowler will be 95. In ordinary times we would be planning a wonderful celebration. 2021 is not ordinary so instead we would like to plan a surprise 95th Birthday Card Party in a Box. We would like you to send a birthday card to Mom. Please feel free to share this invitation with others who may know her. Please send your card to the following address:

Shirley Fowler C/O Beth Larson, 112 Norwood Way Woodbury NJ 08096

Vaccines for Seniors 75+: Both Lehigh Valley Hospital in East Stroudsburg and St. Luke's in Bartonsville are now accepting appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine for seniors aged 75 and over. For Lehigh Valley, call 484-884-1767. For St. Luke's, call 1-866-785-8537, option 7.

Music Practice: Practice with children and adults resume weekly on Wednesdays, beginning January 20th at 4 pm in our Sanctuary, mask and social distancing is required. Join in to learn and make beautiful music together.

Souper Bowl: From now until February 7th our 'Souper Bowl' field is up in the sanctuary, waiting for you to pin up your shoes, pants, shirts, helmets and goal posts! If you're not able to get here, post your donation on-line through Vanco and we'll pin it up for you! **All donations will benefit our local food pantry.**

Bulletin Sponsors: We are now printing our bulletin covers in-house. You may sponsor each week's bulletin for only \$10. This covers the cost of color copies. We currently need sponsors for February 7, 14, 28. A new sign-up sheet for 2021 is on the back table if you haven't signed up yet.

Flower Sponsors: This year we are looking to provide altar flowers in one of two ways. Sign up to either donate \$20 towards silk flowers to be used in arrangements or indicate that you plan on bringing flowers for the altar, which you may then take home with you after the service. Vases are available at church. A sign-up sheet is on the back table...please indicate which type of donation you are offering. Please note that we are also looking for a volunteer or two to help with purchasing and arranging the silk flower arrangements. If you can help, **please contact the office (570-646-0309 or email faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org). Available Dates: February 7, 14, 28.**

Stewardship Snippet

"But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak."—

1 Corinthians 8:9

Christians enjoy great freedom, but we are also responsible to and for one another. Just as new runners start out gently, so new Christ followers may need our careful and loving guidance as we all train in the faith.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 111

When you have God, you have everything! —Anon.

You have no doubt seen television commercials which feature “real people, not actors.” Some companies have no trouble finding real people to endorse their products. Dove soap, Chevrolet and eHarmony find non-actors to extol, praise and endorse commercial products or concepts.

Why? Well, you know. If we’re convinced that the person in love with this herbal, eco-friendly shampoo is a real, common, average person like us, we’ll buy it and try it. We’ll put down cash for stuff because a person of our own tribe and status loves this shampoo — not some phony Hollywood actor/celebrity.

This is why most people, according to a recent survey, prefer real people, not actors, in commercials. It’s just more authentic.

Like the writer of today’s psalm: he’s a real person, like us. Not a professional troubadour, hired to sing praise to Yahweh. This guy’s the real deal.

And the song! This psalm is a work of art! It has 22 phrases (excluding verse 1a), each beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In just 175 words, the singer summarizes the whole history of God’s deliverance of ancient Israel as his poetic homage to the Lord! Psalm 111 is not a voice-over by a paid performer. There’s nothing fake about this person. He’s real. He’s impressed. And he wants to tell us, sell us and ask us to buy and try.

This, then, is what the ancient lyricist has to say. It’s his testimony. He starts with “Praise the LORD” and he ends with “His praise endures forever.”

What is *our* testimony? We are called to be real people, not actors, in our relationships with others. People are looking for real people, authentic people; people who are not showing off, not putting on airs of superiority or self-righteous hypocrisy.

But, of course, we need something positive to say. Do we have anything to say? Are we real people, not actors, in our worship of God?

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, I echo what Psalm 111 says about you. I, too, praise you for your loving-kindness to me. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Job 21-24
Monday: Job 25-27
Tuesday: Job 28-31
Wednesday: Job 32-34
Thursday: Job 35-37
Friday: Job 38-42
Saturday: Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God. –Job 19:25-26

Mini-Sudoku

Each of these two puzzles has four squares. By studying the numbers given, write a number between 1 and 4 in the empty boxes so that each row, column and diagonal have four different numbers, and each of the four boxes has the numbers 1 to 4.

1	2		
4	3		
			3
3		1	2

		1	
3			4
			1
1	3	4	2

VOWEL HUNT

Can you identify these New Testament books which are missing vowels?

1. JD, 2. TTS, 3. PTR, 4. JMS, 5. LK, 6. RVLTN, 7. CTS, 8. TMTH, 9. GLTNS, 10. PHLMN.

Answers to Vowel Hunt:

1. Jude, 2. Titus, 3. Peter,
 4. James, 5. Luke,
 6. Revelation, 7. Acts,
 8. Timothy, 9. Galatians,
 10. Philemon.

Riddles to Share:

1. What month of the year has 28 days? All of them!
2. To what question can you never answer yes? Are you asleep?
3. David's parents have three sons: Snap, Crackle, and what's the name of the third son? David.

1	2	3	4
4	3	2	1
2	1	4	3
3	4	1	2

4	2	1	3
3	1	2	4
2	4	3	1
1	3	4	2