

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**7:45AM &
10:45AM**

**JANUARY 31,
2021**



**Making the
Love of
Christ
Known**

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Charlie Frekot
Vicar

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Gathering Hymn

ELW 665

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, Light from Light,
who commands the universe and all that is made,
your Word is the power that makes whole what is broken,
the force of good, and the food of peace.
Teach us now as you taught in the synagogue.
Heal us now so that in all that we say and do,
the freedom we have in you may be for others, too;
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Kids Praise (10:45) *At this time children age 3 – grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*

First Reading: 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. 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 reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111

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 Reading: 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.

The reading is concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

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 is concluded:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Word of God, Come Down on Earth



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sr, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

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Confession and Forgiveness

The One who pardons, heals, and strengthens all who repent
calls us to name our failings and our hopes.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

**Holy and all-powerful God,
who commands all spirits,
comforts those in distress,
and casts out destructive forces,
we confess that we are unable to do your will.
We protect what is familiar
and reject what is unknown.
We admire those with courage
but excuse ourselves when we falter from the truth.
We forget that you are always with us,
and that with you all things are possible.
Forgive us, lead us, make us new.
Remove our desire to heed false prophets,
and show us your way;
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God, Mother of us all. Amen.**

The God who made you and knows your every thought
hears you now and forgives you all your sin.
You have been redeemed through Jesus Christ,
God's Son, our Savior, who is Alpha and Omega, all in all.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

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.

Offering Prayer

For Earth, which you have molded,
for creatures and animals, plants, water, air, and fire,
for Jesus who died and rose again,
for the breath of life,
we give you thanks, O God.
Let these gifts be used for good wherever there is need,
in the name of all that you have first given us,
especially Christ Jesus, your Son, our Savior.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
**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

Go in peace with the knowledge that God's power
is given to the church, the body of Christ,
for the sake of the life of the world. **Amen**

Sending Hymn

ELW 774

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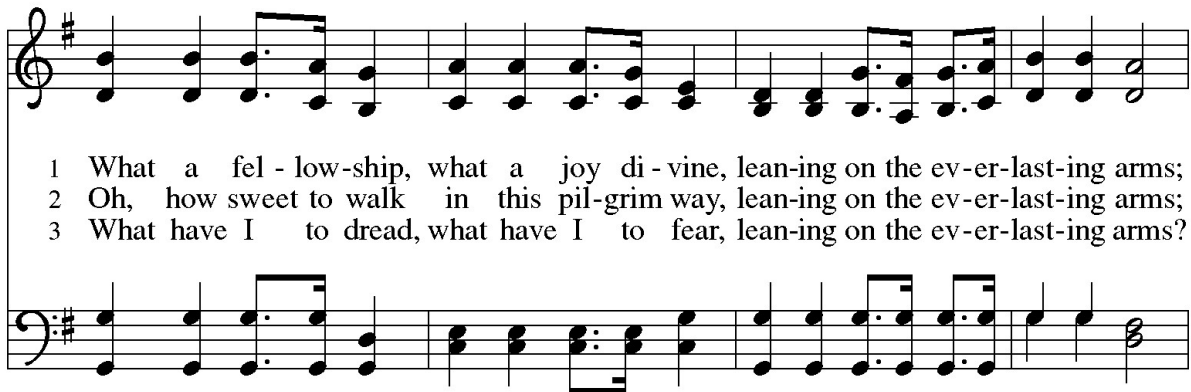
Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

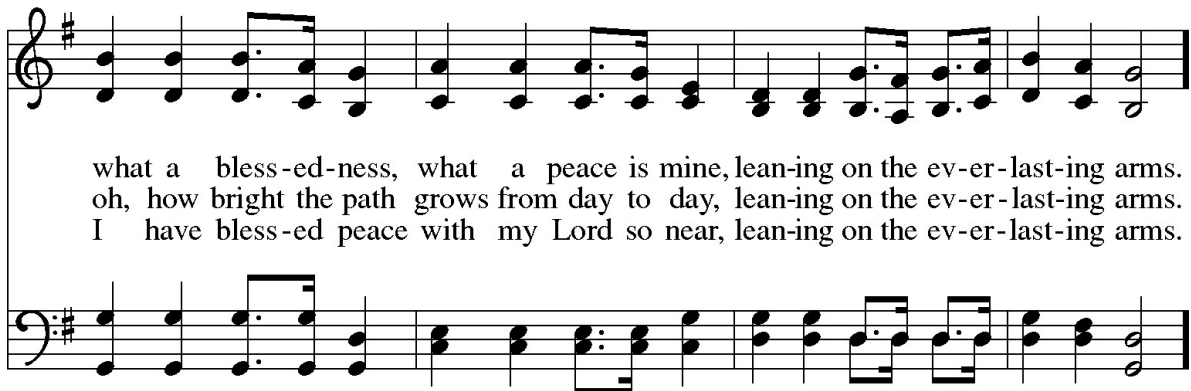
Postlude

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

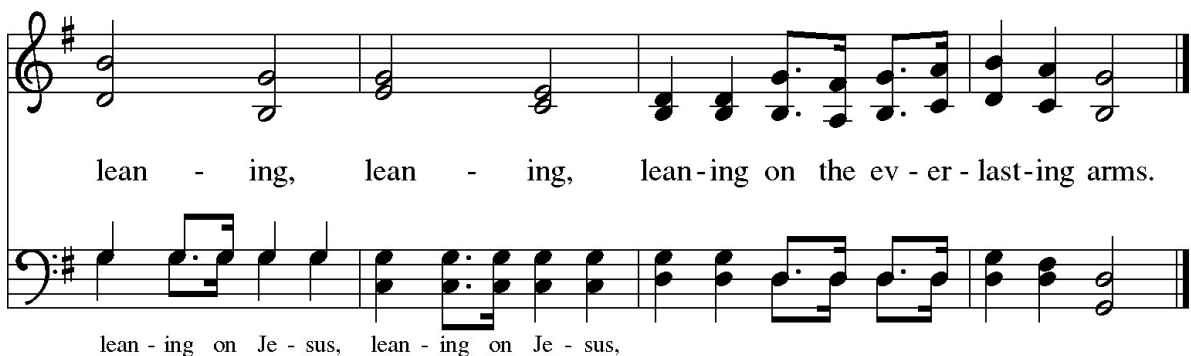


what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.
lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



PREPARE YE THE
WAY OF THE LORD

