

Mon Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Why do we return to the Old Testament every week? Because Jesus inhabits the Old Testament. He is the prime Prophet of God's Word, successor to Moses, and God's last Word on everything (15-18). Warning! This is not a game, so don't play loose with this Prophet, for you will be the loser (19-20). Further, we must close our ears and heart against impostors, who merit God's severe judgment (20).

Tues Mark 1:21-28 Jesus attended church to teach God's Word, and some were impressed by His method and message (21-22). One man in particular needed help, so Jesus, the Holy One of God, beat the devil on his own turf. Note: The devil may quote the Truth, but only to twist it, and the Holy Spirit doesn't want that kind of help (27-28).

Wed 1 Corinthians 8 Since Satan teaches people to depend on their own intellect (1-3), these new disciples needed much instruction about God vs. Satan (4-6). Further, they needed clarification that it was OK (not idolatry) to purchase meat left over from idol sacrifices and marketed in butcher shops. Nonetheless, Christians will be careful about where they go and what they do so that their conduct doesn't influence others to copycat and perhaps sin against their consciences by doing so (9-13).

Thurs Psalm 1 Ungodly people are so full of themselves that they coax godly people to quit being so "narrow-minded," and join them in bad behavior (1) – as though we don't enjoy communing with God anymore (2). God's children endure because they stay rooted where God can water them; they grow sturdy; they produce nutritious fruit; they survive and prosper. All of which stands in contrast to the ungodly (4-5). God help us to persevere (6)!

Fri Mark 1:22 There's more to be said about Mark's comment: *for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes*. Indeed, Jesus had authorization in triplicate, for He was self-authorized as the Word of God incarnate (John 1:14), authorized by His Father (John 5:27), and also by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13). Now, note how the twin phrases counter-balance one another: *AS having authority vs. AS the scribes*. Which means that the scribes were not authorized to speak for God—they were transcribers, secretaries, technicians, and office drudges—but not His spokesmen.

Sat Acts 20:28-38 God's enemy is the enemy of God's children, and since it's open season on Christians, we defend one another from those who ballyhoo immorality, perversions, liberation theology, etc. (29-30). It's heart-breaking (31). How are we to get through the hard times ahead? By depending on God to hold us tight, while we sacrifice Self in service to others (32-35). Amen!

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Seth Bernthal



The time is fulfilled
repent and believe.



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 62

¹ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. ² He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. ³ How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? ⁴ They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. Selah ⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah ⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. ¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. ¹¹ Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, ¹² and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

P Pastor

C Congregation

HYMN: TLH #340:1-3, 7-9 "Awake, My Soul, to Joyful Lays"

1. **Awake, my soul, to joyful lays And sing Thy great Redeemer's praise. He justly claims a song from me,-- His loving-kindness, oh, how free!**
2. **He saw me ruined in the Fall, Yet loved me notwithstanding all. He saved me from my lost estate,-- His loving-kindness, oh, how great!**
3. **When I was Satan's easy prey And deep in debt and bondage lay, He paid His life for my discharge, His loving-kindness, oh, how large.**
7. **Too oft I feel my sinful heart Prone from my Jesus to depart; But through I have Him oft forgot, His loving-kindness changes not.**
8. **When I shall pass death's gloomy vale And all my mortal power must fail, Oh, may my last, expiring breath His loving-kindness sing in death!**
9. **Then shall I mount and soar away To the bright world of endless day And sing with rapture and surprise His loving-kindness in the skies.**

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **A - - - men.**

3. Jesus only can impart Balm to heal the smitten heart; Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven; Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

**5. O my Savior, help afford By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C **Amen, amen, a - men.**

HYMN: WS #709

"God Loves Me Dearly"

1. **God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation; God loves me dearly, Loves even me. ***
2. **I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness; God's love was working to make me free. ***
3. **He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer; He sent forth Jesus and set me free. ***
4. **Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. ***

***Refrain:**

**Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.**

✠ Announcements ✠

ILC Tour Choir CD A new Tour Choir CD has been completed and produced featuring songs from the 2016-19 Tour Choirs. If you are interested in purchasing a CD, we have 20 copies available in the back of church. They are \$11 each, which you can pay to Pastor.

Special Voters' Meeting – A special voters' meeting will be held after the service today in order to call a second teacher for next school year. If you are a voter, please plan to be in attendance. Thanks!

Looking Ahead...

- ✠ **Jan. 31:** Special Voters' Meeting
- ✠ **Feb. 3:** Zoom Bible Class 6:30 pm
- ✠ **Feb. 7:** Masks-On Service 9:00 am
- ✠ **Feb. 7:** Communion

Last Week (1/24) WH – 31 Orlando – 11

General = \$1,141.97 | Memorial = \$75 **Total Offering = \$1,216.97**

Usher: Seger **Cleaner (2/6):** Ream **Acolyte (2/7):** Hayden

SERMON – Jonah 3:1-10 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. ⁶ The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, ⁸ but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. ⁹ Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

History's Great Upset: God Shows Mercy

- I. Even to Nineveh
- II. Even to Jonah
- III. Even to me

OFFERTORY

- G** *♩* Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #342:1-3, 5 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, Lived that I might never die,
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity. Love that
found me, wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- G** *♩* **Who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
- G** *♩* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- G** **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- G** *♩* **A - - - men.**

INTROIT

Ps. 113:1ff

- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!
- G** **Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!**
- P** Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!
- G** **The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!**
- P** He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
- G** **to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

☐ Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Mk. 1:15

☐ Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord"

☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

☐ ♪ All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

☐ Let us pray. . . . and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☐ ♪ A - - - men.

GOSPEL READING – Mark 1:14-20 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN: TLH #430:1, 7 "What is the World to Me"

1. What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When Thou, and Thou alone, Lord Jesus, art my Treasure!
Thou only, dearest Lord, My soul's Delight shalt be;
Thou art my Peace, my Rest,- What is the world to me!
7. The world abideth not; Lo, like a flash 'twill vanish;
With all it gorgeous pomp Pale death it cannot banish;
Its riches pass away, And all its joys must flee;
But Jesus doth abide,- What is the world to me!