

# *Order of Service Readings and Prayer*

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 28, 2024**

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<b>Children's Church</b>	

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***\*The Congregation will stand in reverence.***



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

## 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.**

## First Reading

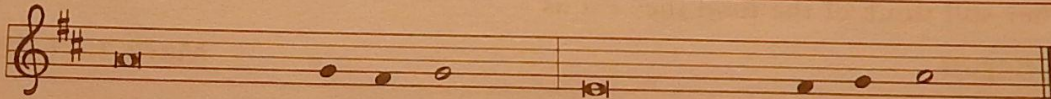
Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This 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." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But 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."

## Psalm

Psalm 111; tone 6



Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the LORD  
with <sup>1</sup> my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright,  
in the <sup>1</sup> congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your <sup>1</sup> works, O LORD,  
pondered by all  
who de- <sup>1</sup> light in them.

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor  
<sup>1</sup> mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness  
en- <sup>1</sup> dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders  
to <sup>1</sup> be remembered;  
you are gracious  
and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.

<sup>5</sup>You give food  
to <sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
remembering forev- <sup>1</sup> er  
your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people  
the power <sup>1</sup> of your works  
in giving them  
the lands <sup>1</sup> of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands  
are faithful- <sup>1</sup> ness and justice;  
all of your pre- <sup>1</sup> cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
because they are done  
in <sup>1</sup> truth and equity.

continued

Psalm, continued

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

<sup>10</sup>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

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, 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." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet 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.

<sup>7</sup>It 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. <sup>8</sup>"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. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For 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? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

## Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and 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." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They 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." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

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