

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you know that we cannot withstand the dangers which surround us. Strengthen us in body and spirit so that with your help, we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

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.”

PSALM: Psalm 111

¹Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

⁵He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

⁸Now 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.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹They 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.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: January 28th
4th Sunday after Epiphany
9:15 – Adult SS
9:30 – Youth SS
9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30 – Worship
4:00 – Laurens Care Center
Service
5:00-6:30 – Youth Group at BLC
Monday: January 29th
4:00PM – W/M Mtg.
Tuesday: January 30th
8:30AM – Prayer Group
9:30AM – Tuesday coffee at BLC
Saturday: February 3rd
8:00AM – Men’s Group

Sunday: February 4th
5th Sunday after Epiphany
9:15-Adult
9:30 – Youth SS
9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30-Worship w/Communion
Installation of Council

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Pete Runneberg, Myra Reese, Myra Walstead, Elizabeth Dunbar, Bob Winkelman, Linda Booth, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Rodolto Rezarin, Ely Kleszczelski, Colleen Phillips, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Christine Gordon, Dorothy Sandvig, Helen Dodge, Pastor James Puotyual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries. The Family of Tiffany Klappenbach.

Lectors: Tom Anderson
Ushers: January 28th-Tom & Elaine Anderson
February 4th -Jim & Denise Hodgell
Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget Needs: \$2800.00
Faith Promise \$2302.10 1/21/24 Worship 35
Sunday School \$ 7.00 1/21/24 Adult SS 8 Youth SS
Potluck \$ 59.00

Birthdays: Feb 7-Scott Pedersen

Anniversary: Feb 5-John & Marci Runneberg

***Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

Altar Flowers:
An asterisk () indicates when to stand (as able)*
ORDER OF THE SERVICE
PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION
*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56
*HYMN *Son of God, Eternal Savior* **LBW 364**
*GREETING P.57
*KYRIE P.57
*HYMN OF PRAISE P.59
*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)

MEDITATION ON GOD’S WORD
FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
PSALM: Psalm 111 (bulletin – responsively)
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
*ALLELUA VERSE P.62
***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**
*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
CHILDREN’S SERMON
SERMON
HYMN *O Savior, Precious Savior* **LBW 514**
APOSTLES’ CREED P.65

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
OFFERING/ Processional **“Offertory Psalm”** P.75
*OFFERTORY P.75
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
Leader: ...Lord in your mercy
Response: Hear our prayer.
***THE LORD’S PRAYER** **CH 631**

OUR SENDING
*BENEDICTION P.76
*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* **CH 562**
*DISMISSAL
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January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT
TOGETHER IN CHRIST’S NAME

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

We are a
Christ-Centered
Mission-Driven
Traditionally-Grounded
Congregationally-Focused
Church