

# The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ January 31, 2021

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow  
your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community  
living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

## First Lesson *Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>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 111

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,

in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people and commanded your  
cove- | nant forever;

holy and awesome | is your name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;

all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise en- | dures forever. R

## Second Reading *1 Corinthians 8:1-13*

<sup>1</sup>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*

<sup>21</sup>[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.

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

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.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

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

## Dismissal

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.

We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

**Devotions With Holy Communion Continue in 2021.** Beginning January 14 Pastor Duane offers weekly devotions with Holy Communion during the daytime hours on Thursdays and at 10:15 am on Saturday mornings. Call the church office at 382-6509 to reserve a slot or use the new Sign Up Genius:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA8AC2EA20-weekly>

**Annual FFA Dinner on January 31 is Grab and Go This Year.** The Nevada FFA will prepare and package a free turkey dinner that can be picked up from the east side of Gates Hall between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm on Sunday, January 31. Meal delivery is also available by calling 515-382-3521 ext 329.

## FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

### For Those Hospitalized

### Prayers for Healing

Don Hackbarth, Fred Samuelson, Gary Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen

### For Those Who Mourn

+Chad Ritland died Saturday, January 23, at the University of Iowa Hospital. Funeral services were held at Bethany Lutheran Church in McCallsburg on Saturday, January 30. We extend Christian sympathy to his wife, Veronica, daughters, Elizabeth, Grace and Katelyn, and all the family.

+Carl Allen died Monday, January 25, at home. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. We extend Christian sympathy to his wife, Judy, children, Lori and Matthew, and all the family.