

**BUT YOU MUST
BE CAREFUL
SO THAT YOUR
FREEDOM
DOES NOT CAUSE OTHERS
WITH A WEAKER CONSCIENCE
TO STUMBLE.**

1 CORINTHIANS 8:9

**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024
Canoga Park Lutheran Church
7357 Jordan Ave.
Canoga Park, CA
818-348-5714 www.cplchurch.org**

AS WE GATHER

In a world where there is nothing new under the sun, we still run to anything that appears to be new. When Jesus taught in the synagogue, the hearers heard a man speak with the authority of the author of the Scriptures. They were surprised and even more surprised when His Word was not simply theoretical but silenced an unclean spirit and relieved the man of this demon. In their amazement, they could not help but tell the story to any who would listen. Yet even as Jesus' fame spread, so did opposition to His teaching and preaching.

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONGS

♪ Jesus Does ♪

♪ Come As You Are ♪

♪ Our Great God ♪

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: *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.*

People: **O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: *Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: *Let us pray.*
Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’”

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 8:1–13

¹Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed 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.

⁷However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this right of

yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹²Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²²And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴“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 out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

♪ All Creatures of Our God and King ♪

SERMON

“ Be Careful ”

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

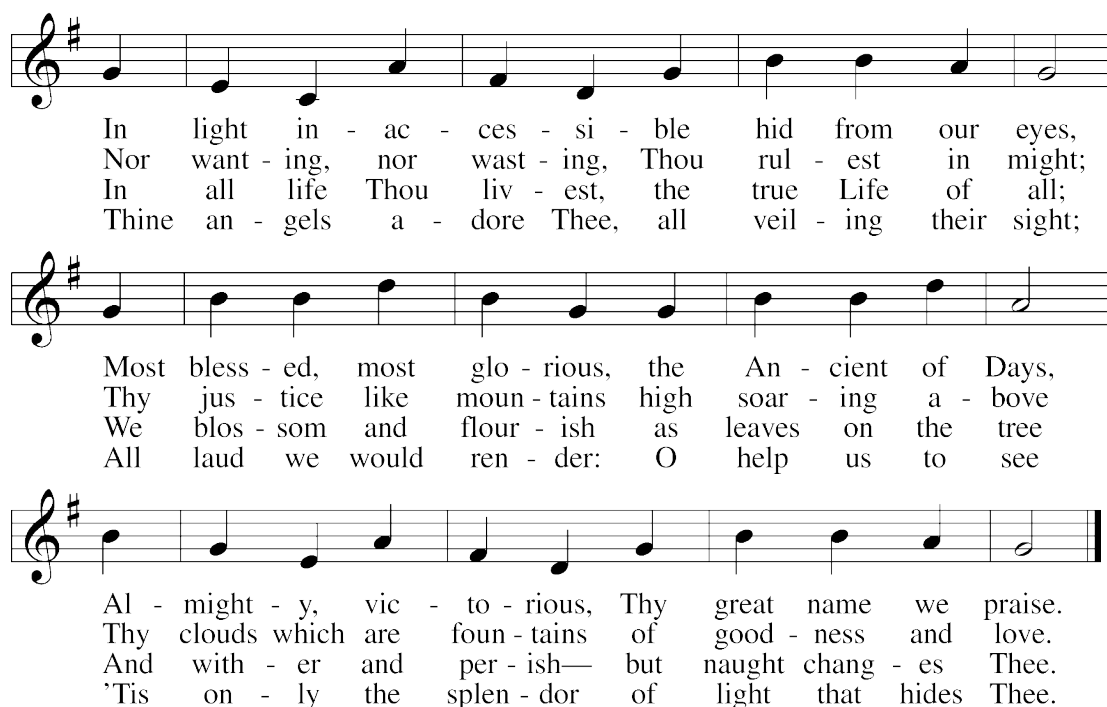
POST SERMON HYMN

♪ Immortal Invisible God Only Wise ♪

LSB No. 802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Tune: Welsh

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

Father of love, You rescued Your fallen people with the sufferings and death of Christ, Your Son, our Brother in flesh. Guide us to know and rejoice in His salvation and to proclaim this Gospel with boldness to our brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of mercy, Your compassion has rescued us from the powers of evil and set us free. Guide us to use this liberty to serve others as Christ has served us. Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of grace, You have provided us with the new life of Holy Baptism and granted us faith by the power of the Spirit. Keep us in this faith that we may be preserved from evil and delivered from all our enemies to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of truth, You have given us Your Word that we might know the truth. Provide for us good and honest leaders who will heed the voice of Your Word and protect us from violence so that we may lead peaceful and godly lives without fear. Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of comfort, You have borne in Your Son all our wounds. According to Your will, deliver all who are sick, who suffer, who are troubled in mind, and those near death that they may be preserved in faith in the day of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of hope, You have ended the reign of death by the resurrection of Your Son. Deliver us from death and grant Your peace to the dying and Your comfort to those who grieve. Lord, in Your mercy,*

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: *Father of peace, You have restored us to You and given us a place at the Table of Your Son. Lead us to repentance and strengthen our faith that we who commune at this altar*

may be of one faith and receive without hindrance the fruits of His atoning work in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Father of courage, You have promised to grant us all things needful for this body and life even as You have provided eternal life to us in Christ. Help us always to pray with confidence in Your mercy, knowing that Your every answer is for our eternal good. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

SPECIAL PETITIONS

Pastor: All these things for which we have prayed and all other things we need, we pray You to grant us in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: For all the things we don't know how to pray for, for those things that burden us, stress us out, and keep us awake all night; for the prayers where we don't even have the words to say, hear those prayers as we pray as the Lord Jesus taught us...

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

*Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

♪ **Every Praise** ♪

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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We Are...

<u>C</u> anoga	<u>C</u> aring
<u>P</u> ark	<u>P</u> eople
<u>L</u> utheran	<u>L</u> oving
<u>C</u> hurch	<u>C</u> hrist!



This Worship is a combined Worship and is recorded and uploaded to our website so other members and folks all around the world are able to Worship with us! If you can't be with us in-person Sunday mornings, please Worship along with us online. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. In HIS service & love, Pastor Tim