January 31, 2021

Welcome
Good morning. I’m Pastor Adam Arends serving North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church, and Vicar Paul Sannerud of Blair Lutheran Church is also leading worship with me this morning.

You may want to take a moment now to gather elements for communion which we will lead later in this service. So take some time to gather some bread and some wine or juice so that when we offer communion you may partake yourself, and with those in your household, and with the body of Christ united around the world.

Welcome to God’s church On this 4th Sunday after Epiphany. These communities of faith have one great aim and purpose: to help people grow in life-giving relationships with their neighbor, self, the earth and God. That’s why we’ve come together and that’s why we’re glad you’re here.

Announcements
Our congregations will be holding their annual meetings next week, February 7th. Both congregations will hold their meetings separately next Sunday, both at 10AM. Blair Lutheran will hold their meeting as a Drive-in meeting from the parking lot in Blair, and North Beaver Creek will be hosting their meeting in the brick church, by reservation with masks and physical distancing.

Remember that we are in the holy presence of God. Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

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.

Hymn 665 - Rise, Shine, You People

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.

2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.
3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the
darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the
story
of Jesus’ glory.

4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to
save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom
gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev’ry
nation
God’s new creation.

Greeting
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie
Hymn 157
L : In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord
C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy
L : For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
   For the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord
C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy
L: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
   For the strength to live your word, Let us pray to the Lord
C: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy
L: Help save and defend us, O God C: Amen

Canticle of Praise  #836 Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee V 1,3
Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
 lift us to the joy divine!
Prayer of the Day
(Prayer of Approach)

Loving God,
whose touch can heal the broken places of life,
touch us today...

God of peace,
whose spirit of peace can quiet our spirits
of confusion and despair,
reassure us today...

Forgiving God,
whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace,
place your mercy in our souls today...

You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned,
who bring justice in the midst of oppression
and strength in the midst of weakness,
pour out your spirit of power upon us today.

Open our hearts to new faithfulness,
redirect our waywardness,
and hold us gently in your goodness.

We confess our need to you,
and we turn to you with hearts filled with hope,
remembering the promises you have made to us.

May your name be glorified in us and through us.
We ask it through Christ Jesus,
your only begotten son,
he who is our Lord and our Saviour,
our brother and our friend. Amen.

— based on materials by Peter K. Perry, and posted on Richard Fairchild’s Kir-shalom website.
1ST 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. 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.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. 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. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them. Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion. You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations. The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity. You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

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. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

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.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—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.

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. “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. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 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? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 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 Acclamation 172 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
L: The Gospel for today is from the Gospel of Mark 1:14-20
C: Glory to You oh Lord

The Gospel
L: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to You, O Christ
Hymn of the Day  886 – Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.

4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith
alone,
be justified by grace!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

The 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.
The Prayers of the People
Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
For all God’s works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (especially); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from home, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (especially), let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.
Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.
The Offering

Offering Resp. # 686 We Give Thee But Thine Own (V 1 only)

The Offering Prayer
Merciful God,
receive the gifts we bring,
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Through this meal unite us as your body,
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;
for the sake of him who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
C: And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise!
Let us Pray

The Pre-Communion Prayer
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, Holy  (p 153)
C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of pow’r and might:  
Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all  
people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Together as the body of Christ,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith until he comes:
C: Christ has died.  
    Christ is risen.  
    Christ will come again.  
With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
the first-born of your new creation.  
We remember his life lived for others,  
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

The Lord’s Prayer (Sung)

The Invitation
We who are united in one body, who have been anointed by your Spirit,  
who seek to join in your mission, make us one as we partake of the one  
bread.
Behold who you are. Become what you will receive.

Come. Be filled with light and life.

**The Post Communion Prayer**

Christ Jesus,  

at this table we have feasted on your very life  
and are strengthened for our journey.  

Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit  
to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.  

L: We have asked God to change us by God’s grace, fill us with God’s goodness and make us a mirrored reflection of the Divine. We ARE the body of Christ – giving ourselves for others. We are the blood of Jesus – may our lives and love be spilled out for those around us who are hurting. We have become what we received.  

C: Amen.

**Blessing:**  

..May your life be a brush in the very hand of God—painting new creation into every nook and cranny of reality that your shadow graces.  

Be courageous. Be free. Prune that which needs pruning, and water that which thirsts for righteousness. You are the body of Christ, the light of the world. Pick up your hammer. Your brush. Your trumpet. Your skillet. Your pen. Lift up your head. Lift up your voice. And walk. Run. Dance. Fly. Sing. The great Artist has called you into being. So go into your world, your valley, your garden, and create with His grace and His peace. Amen.
Sending 655 – Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, eternal Savior, 
source of life and truth and grace, 
Word made flesh, whose birth among us 
hallows all our human race, 
you our head, who, throned in glory, 
for your own will ever plead: 
fill us with your love and pity, 
heal our wrong, and help our need.

2 As you, Lord, have lived for others, 
so may we for others live. 
Freely have your gifts been granted; 
freely may your servants give. 
Yours the gold and yours the silver, 
yours the wealth of land and sea; 
we but stewards of your bounty 
held in solemn trust will be.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us, 
King of love and Prince of peace; 
hush the storm of strife and passion, 
bid its cruel discords cease. 
By your patient years of toiling, 
by your silent hours of pain, 
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, 
stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior, 
source of life and truth and grace, 
Word made flesh, whose birth among us 
hallows all our human race: 
by your praying, by your willing 
that your people should be one, 
grant, oh, grant our hope’s fruition: 
here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Dismissal
L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ
C: Thanks be to God.