



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021

Thought for the Day

Consider the word authority: “author” is its prefix.

What brings authority is “authoring” some word or action

For which you take personal responsibility.

Welcome

Prelude

“Siciliano”

(John Stanley)

Tower Bell

Introit

Call to Worship

L: We gather to Worship God who alone can heal us and make us whole.

M: **Open our hearts that you may transform our lives with your healing touch.**

L: We gather to Worship God who alone speaks the Word that calls forth life.

M: **Open our minds that you may transform us with your authoritative Word,**

L: We gather to Worship God in spirit and in truth.

M: **Open our spirits that you may transform us by your powerful Spirit.**

L: Let us Worship our God!!

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Gracious God, you alone have the power to change our lives. Change our hearts, dear Lord. You have the power to overcome that which we are powerless to change. May your power be at work in our lives. Make us well, make us whole, let our lives be a reflection of your love.

O Lord, we pause now to scan our hearts because we love you and want so much to please you. But as we do we feel profound apprehension. We've looked into our souls before and what we've found is dark when compared to your light. And this recognition, O God, is what brings us again and again to the cross, mindful of the fact that only in Jesus Christ can we bridge the gap that exists between us. With that truth in hand we now come to you by way of the Way, confessing our sin and asking that you view us only through the lens of Jesus Christ's righteousness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

P: Hear the Good News! Paul reminds us, *“There is one God ... 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 ... If one loves God, one is known by God.”* As we confess our sins before God, God is faithful and just, and in Jesus, through whom we exist, God forgives us our sin. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

M: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen!**

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture From the Law of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet^[a] like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.^[b] ¹⁶ 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." ¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet^[c] like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,^[d] who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet^[e] shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ 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."

Anthem

“We Are More Than Conquerors” (Mark Hayes)

We are more than conquerors, we are more than conquerors
We are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us.

For I’m convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ!

Children be strong in the Lord, be strong in the strength of God’s power.
For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but the rulers, and the powers, and the darkness, and the evil of this world.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand. And
having done everything, lift up you head and then stand. Now stand, stand, stand
now stand!

We are more than conquerors, we are more than conquerors though Jesus Christ!

Scripture

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD!

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ He 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^[a] have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

Offertory Invitation

What offering can we bring to God? All our wealth is not enough to express our praise. How shall we share in tasks beyond our ability to accomplish? Yet God chooses us and our gifts to make a difference in the world. God employs our weakness to shame the strong. God prospers our work and witness, transforming the world, beginning with us. Let us share in the joy of giving.

Offertory*“Jesus, Savior, Blessed Friend”**(Govenor)*

Whom have I, O Lord, beside you? What have I except your love?
Where is home if not for heaven, there to dwell above?
Who are you, if not my Savior? Who am I if not your own?
What are you if not my shelter, Christ, my rock and corner stone?
Jesus, Savior, blessed friend, I will love you without end.

Who will share my earthly sorrow? Who will heal my broken heart?
Who will hold my life together when it seems to fall apart?
When the fears are far too many, and the joys are far too few,
Who will comfort and defend me? Only you, Lord, only you.
Jesus, Savior, dearest friend, I will trust you without end.

Where, O Lord, when life is over, can I go, but home to you?
What have I except the promise where you are I shall be too?
When at last I reach the comfort of that bright celestial place,
There with joy will I behold you, gaze upon your glorious face.
Jesus, Savior, heavenly friend, I will praise you without end.

Scripture

From the Gospels: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit,

convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He^[a] commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Sermon "Discovery" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Hymn "Arise, Your Light Is Come! (Festal Song)
(see next page)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude "Prelude and Fugue in F" (J.K.F. Fischer)

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

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1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
up the bro - ken-heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
up like ea - gles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

WORDS: Ruth Duck (1947-)
MUSIC: William H. Walter (1825-1893)
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FESTAL SONG
S.M.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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