

## JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

### THE 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. Amen

### THE FIRST LESSON – 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--**16** just 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.' **17** And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. **18** I 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. **19** And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. **20** But 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.' *ESV*

### THE RESPONSIVE READING –Psalm 111: 1-10

**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 splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**4** He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**5** He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

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

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

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

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

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

### THE SECOND LESSON – 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. **2** If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. **3** But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. **4** Therefore, 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." **5** For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth--as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"-- **6** 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. **7** However, 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. **8** Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. **9** But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. **10** For 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? **11** And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. **12** Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. **13** Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. *ESV*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL – Mark 1: 21-28**

21 And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. 22 And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And 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." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 And 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." 28 And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee. *ESV*

### **HYMNS**

Son of God, Eternal Savior	LBW 364
Healer of Our Every Ill	WOV 738
What a Friend we Have in Jesus	LBW 439
Blessed Assurance	WOV 699