

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today's readings reveal the nature of divine teaching authority given to prophets, to Jesus, and also entrusted to the church. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home at 10am on Sunday or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

## **RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 2021  
Our Common Prayer at Home**

*You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:*

## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<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."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:*  
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210131/playlist>

## **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.
- <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.
- <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.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<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 God.

<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 deities in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many deities

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 brothers and sisters in your community, 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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 the spirit, 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 the man. <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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

*There are indeed, right now, false prophets, people who mislead and betray others by what they say, pretending to speak in God's name. We too, as Paul says, can use our religious knowledge to hurt others. How can the fire and the voice of the living God save us from this misuse of religion? Listen. Jesus' teaching ministry begins in an importantly strange way in Mark's Gospel. Nothing is said of what he actually teaches. And he oddly silences the unclean spirit who knows who he is. Religious knowledge is already being re-worked. In Mark that silence continues through the whole Gospel until at last Jesus is finally silenced on the cross. But this crucified Jesus is risen, and by the power of the Spirit he comes to our assemblies and to our homes. He is himself the new teaching, the promised prophet, the fire and voice of God in a way we can encounter. In him God knows us. And the word of this Holy One of God does heal us and turn us in kindness and care toward the others around us.*

*At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:*  
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210131/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210131/playlist>

## HYMN OF THE DAY #311

### Hail to the Lord's Anointed



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
pre - cious in your sight.  
hill to val - ley flow.  
king - dom with out end.

*Then pray these intercessions:*

Let us offer to God both our praises and our petitions for all in need, responding to each prayer with the words “Hear us and help us.”

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, we praise you for sustaining the church during this difficult time. We pray that you give to all preachers and teachers the power of your prophetic Spirit, that their words will proclaim the comfort and challenge of Christ. Lead to yourself all those who have become captive to false prophets and empty promises; free them and embrace them in your mercy.

*A brief silence.*

O faithful God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Bountiful God, we praise you for continuously creating the earth and nourishing its creatures. We pray that you restore lands and waters that have been harmed by human misuse. Raise up advocates for an ecological way of life, and guide us toward an appropriate use of government in preserving the earth’s natural resources.

*A brief silence.*

O bountiful God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Ruling God, we praise you for an inauguration and the days following that were free from violence and marked by hope. We pray that you to give wisdom to our elected and appointed officials, to political parties, and to grassroots organizers, that in all things they endeavor to serve the common good. Guide our nation out of the ways of prejudice and into equality and justice for all.

*A brief silence.*

O ruling God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Compassionate God, we praise you for each day of health and well-being, and we pray for all who are sick or suffering. Comfort those with mental illness or emotional distress, those institutionalized, or living on the streets, or residing in our homes. We praise you for the development of Covid-19 vaccines, and we pray for their fair and prompt distribution. Increase in our land a commitment to limit contagion to others. Visit all who have contracted the coronavirus and all who are experiencing the long-term effects of Covid-19. Strengthen medical workers and

home health aides. Receive our prayers for those we name before you: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fueling, Phillip Swinger, Michael Chaffier and family, Maria Liwski, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Debbie, and Kat.

*A brief silence.*

O compassionate God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Reconciling God, we praise you for your Spirit of wisdom and concord. We pray for all who make ethical decisions, whether in homes, in churches, or in societies. Keep families from quarreling over which foods to eat. Instruct us when to preserve the past and when to institute change, when to maintain our own preferences and when to yield to others.

*A brief silence.*

O reconciling God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Gracious God, we give you praise for your continuous untold blessings, and we offer you now the petitions of our own hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

O gracious God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

Eternal God, we praise you for your servants of time past whose words and actions have inspired our lives. We mourn those who have died of Covid-19. Unite us with all our beloved dead now through our memories and at the end of time in your presence.

*A brief silence.*

O eternal God, we pray:

**Hear us and help us.**

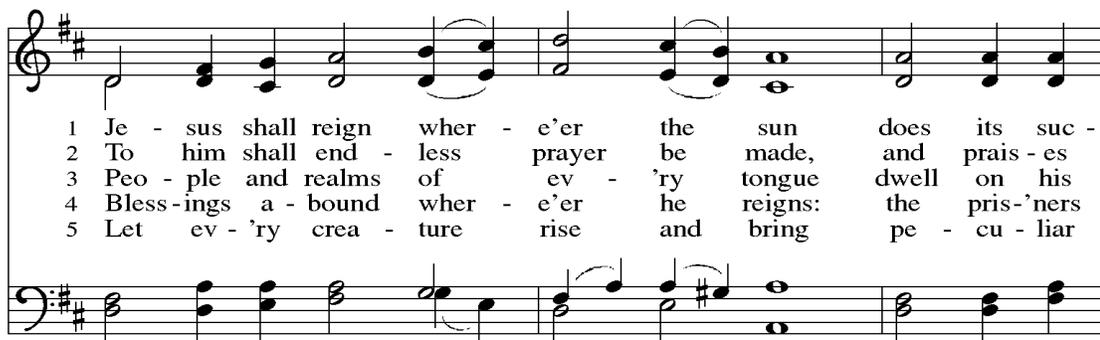
Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your loving care, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

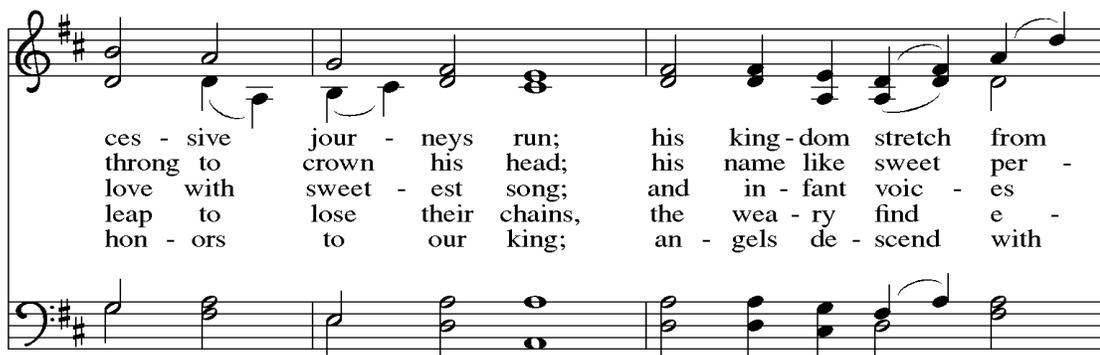
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20210131/playlist>

## HYMN #434

### Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

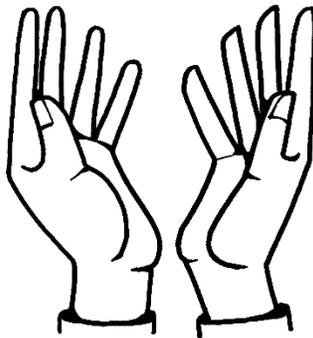
*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy God,  
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,  
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,  
proclaiming to us your wisdom  
and inviting us to follow your call.  
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,  
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,  
and revived the brokenhearted.  
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.  
**We worship you, O God.**

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,  
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.  
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,  
now and forever. Amen.  
**Amen.**



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let this food to us be blessed.  
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,  
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

**Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** Psalm 35:1-10. **Tuesday** (Presentation of Our Lord) Luke 2:22-40.

**Wednesday** (commemoration of Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden 865) Jeremiah 29:1-14. **Thursday** Psalm 147:1-11, 20c. **Friday** (commemoration of the Martyrs of Japan, 1597) 1 Corinthians 9:1-16. **Saturday** Isaiah 46:1-13. **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

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