

Epiphany 4

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (Year C)

God's love for his people is evidenced in his "knowing" us before we were born. We are only able to love because God has first loved us. His love is the epitome of unconditional agape love which is shown most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Without love, we have nothing. Love is the force that binds us together — a force that has its origin in the Creator.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4–10 (17–19)

Appointed as a Prophet

The Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah who thought he was too young to speak for God. The Lord assured him that he would not be alone, in fact he had never been alone. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," declared the Creator. Jeremiah was given a vision of the disobedience of Israel and a charge to go and speak.

Psalm 71:1–6 (7–11)

The Rock of Refuge

The psalmist cried out to the Lord to be his rock and fortress, the one who saves him from the hands of the wicked. In the Lord is his only hope. God is the one who took him from his mother's womb; all glory and honor belong to Him alone.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13

The Greatest Gift is Love

Paul addressed the Corinthian church over their quarreling about which gift was the greatest amongst them. Some had cited that speaking in tongues was the superior gift but their insistence caused conflict, pain, and division in the Body of Christ. Without love, Paul asserted, we have nothing. Love never ends.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:31–44

Teaching with Authority

As Jesus was traveling around Galilee, he healed many and cast out demons from those who were possessed. Those who witnessed his teaching and healing were perplexed by his power and authority. Some were confused about Jesus' true identity but the demons knew who he was, "the Holy One of God."

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed in Ordinary Time.
- Sometimes we feel like we have no one to turn to in our lives. Everyone is so busy that few have time to sit and listen. But the psalmist knew that there was always One to whom he could turn saying, "Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come." (Psalm 71:3)
- How might we encourage one another to share with those who feel alone that God is our rock of refuge and is always ready to listen and respond to our deepest needs. Even as we listen to those who need to talk, we can remind them.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Dearest Jesus, at Your Word	248	---	---	520	203	203
Rise, Shine, You People	393	---	825	665	---	---
All Praise to You, O Lord	78	---	---	---	---	web
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Jesus, the Very Thought of You	316	---	---	---	---	web
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	499	---	686	807	227	227
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Healer of Our Every Ill	---	738	---	612	---	---
Cup of Blessing That We Share	204	---	---	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Center My Life
(CCLI # 7051445)
Healing is in Your Hands
(CCLI # 5677423)
Your Great Name
(CCLI # 5393329)
As the Deer
(CCLI # 1431)
Authority
(CCLI # 7134513)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.