4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

## **MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:**

O God who is revealed in the love of Jesus: Grant us the wisdom to realize that nothing is more important than our being faithful to you and to the commonwealth of love you are calling into being; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## TRINITY WELCOME

## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- \* "Sometimes the urge to be right can be very wrong for a relationship." - Charles F Glassman (Doctor of Internal Medicine)
- \* "The mature response to the problem of existence is love." - Erich Fromm (Psychiatrist), The Art of Loving
- ❖ Intense love does not measure, it just gives. - Mother Teresa

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another, People: because love is from God.

Leader: Whoever does not love does not know God,

People: for God is love.

Leader: God is love and those who abide in love abide in God,

People: and God abides in them.

--based on 1 John 4:7, 16b

"Let the Walls Fall Down" (music at end of bulletin) PRAISE SONG:

## THE CONFESSION:

All: Loving God, we confess that we have not always loved you with all our heart, our mind and our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as your Son, Jesus, commanded us to love. We worry more about being right, one upping one another rather than about how we might love one anothe. Forgive us, we pray. Clothe us in your love that knows no bounds, that we may follow the

commandment of Jesus to love one another. Then the entire world will know us as your followers, people of love. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. Let be loving for only then can we be righteous.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: "Healer" (music at end of bulletin)

# THE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

In much of this first book to the new Christian community in Corinth, Greece, the Apostle Paul is addressing issues of controversy among them. Here it is the practice of buying and eating food which had been offered to idols in Corinthian temples built in honor of certain Greek gods and goddesses. Because some in this young group of believers were confused about whether this was proper, Paul provides some interesting advice.

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.

## THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

This is a continuation of Mark's story about Jesus which we heard last week. After calling some of His disciples, part of last week's story, Jesus now shows what some of His ministry will include, namely healings. Everyone is amazed by what He does and can't help then but to tell others.

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

convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 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.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

MESSAGE: "When Being Right Ain't Right" - Pastor David School

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: "God of the Movements and Martyrs" vs. 2 & 3 (music at end of bulletin)

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and 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.

# THE SENDING OUT:

One: Go, in the love of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the peace of God. Share God's love with the world. **Amen.** 

THE SENDING SONG: "What is the World Like" (vs. 2, 3 & 5) (music at end of bulletin)

## THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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