

Two faithful Lutherans from the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF), a partner church of the LCMS, are facing charges from Finland's prosecutor general due to a 2004 booklet titled *As Man and Woman He Created Them: Homosexuality and the Challenge to the Christian Concept of Man*, which was published by the Luther Foundation.

The pamphlet was written by Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a medical doctor and longstanding member of the Finnish parliament, and endorsed by the Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, who is now bishop of the ELMDF.

As Pohjola and Räsänen prepare for their upcoming day in court, we invite our congregations to give thanks for their faithfulness and to remember them in their prayers. Please see the special insert with a prayer for your use.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (17–19)

1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13

Luke 4:31–44

Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Your Sins and Give You Life

Jesus was sent to “*preach the good news of the kingdom of God*” (Luke 4:43). His preaching is an epiphany or manifestation of God, because His Word reveals the authority of His Cross and Resurrection, by which He has atoned for the sins of the world. By the preaching of His Gospel in every place, He silences the unclean spirits and casts out demons, heals the diseases of body and soul, and restores life and health to His creation (Luke 4:40–41). For the sake of His divine love, He is “*patient and kind*” toward us; He “*bears all things,*” “*endures all things,*” and “*delivers up His body*” to save us (1 Cor. 13:3–4, 7). So also for the sake of His love, He calls and sends His prophets, as ministers of His Word, “*to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant*” (Jer. 1:10).

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022

INTROIT

Psalm 10:16-18; Antiphon: Psalm 10:12

*Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.*

*The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations perish from his land.*

*O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart;
you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
forget not the afflicted.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty God,
You know we live in the midst of so many dangers
that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.
Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

C **Amen**

GRADUAL

Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

*Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,* **C** **hear our prayer.**

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19 (ESV)

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’;

for to all to whom I send you, you shall go,

and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

¹⁷ But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. ¹⁸ And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. ¹⁹ They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against

you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you.”

1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13 (ESV)

^{12:31b} I will show you a still more excellent way.

^{13:1} If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Luke 4:31-44 (ESV)

³¹ [Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ “Ha! 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.” ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s

house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

February 6: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Series C):

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13), 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20, Luke 5:1-11