



February 4, 2024

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

♪ What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

♪ Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

♪ Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770 - Text: Joseph M. Scriven 1819-86; Tune: Charles C. Converse 1832-1918;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalms 13:5

The LORD lifts up the humble;

He casts the wicked to the ground.

Psalms 147:6

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast...

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21–31

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?

He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name;

by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:16–27

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *Music: "O Little Town", Hymn 361* "O Praise the Lord for He Is Good"

- ♪ O praise the Lord, for He is good To sing unto our God;
‘Tis right and pleasant for God’s saints To tell His praise abroad.
The Lord God builds up His church, Finds those who draw apart;
God binds their wounds and gently leads; He heals the broken heart.
- ♪ Our Lord is great: He calls by name And counts the stars of night;
God’s wisdom is unsearchable, And wondrous is His might.
The Lord holds the poor and meek But brings the wicked low;
Sing praise to God who sends the rain, Whose care the cattle know.
- ♪ No human might, no earthly pride Delights the Lord above;
In those who fear Him God delights, In those who trust His love.
O Zion, praise the Lord God, His wondrous love confess;
God is your glory and your strength, He will your children bless.

Please Stand

- ♪ All glory to the Father, sing: Creator of the world
All glory to the Son, we sing: For Your redeeming love
All glory to the Spirit: Your love and grace divine.
We praise You and adore Your name, Forevermore. Amen.

Text: The Psalter, 1912. Public domain. Paraphrase of Psalm 147.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29–39

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about

her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“On Eagles’ Wings”

- ♪ You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”
~And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.
- ♪ The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. ~And He...
- ♪ You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. ~And He...
- ♪ For to His angels He’s given a command To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. ~And He....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 727 - Text & Tune: Michael Joncas b. 1951; © OCP Publications; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Combatting the Napoleon Complex”

Isaiah 40:21–31

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Admonition to Communicants

Lord’s Prayer

Sanctus *Music: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name" Hymn 917 "Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old"*

- ♪ Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old, The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
- ♪ Above the throne were flaming seraphim; Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight.
- ♪ And with the other two aloft they soared; One to the other called and praised the Lord:
"Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!"
- ♪ Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth! His glory fills the heavens and the earth!"
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry.
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 960-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; ©1941 Concordia Publishing House;
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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated* "Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning"

- ♪ Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- ♪ Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining; Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.
- ♪ Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?
- ♪ Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- ♪ Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 400-Text: Reginald Heber 1783-1826
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Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

- ♪ As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- ♪ As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- ♪ As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
- ♪ Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
- ♪ In the heav'nly country bright Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 397-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98
Tune: Conrad Kocher 1786-1872, setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain.*

Postlude