

Sunday, February 7, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

ELW Service of the Word



Introduction to the day

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.
We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.
We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.
We distrust those who are not like us.
We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.
Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.
Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;
receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

**Glory to God in the highest;
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from Isaiah.

- ²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
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 live in;
- ²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

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

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty 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 strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so 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 I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.

²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Alleluia.* The servant of God took our infirmities and bore our diseases.**

***Alleluia.* (Matt. 8:17)**

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured 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.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's power to heal, let us offer our prayers for all who are in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "We await your steadfast love."

A brief silence.

We pray for the church's many ministries of healing; for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains; for those serving in prisons, camps, and institutions; and for bishops and pastors facing illness of which we are unaware. *A brief silence.*

We pray to you, saving God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for the health of the earth; for its myriad animals and their habitats; and for all created life that has been harmed by human misuse. *A brief silence.*

We pray to you, provident God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for the health of people around the globe, especially for the people of Ethiopia and India; for international health organizations; for local and national medical services; and for school officials and teachers facing the pandemic. *A brief silence.*

We pray to you, benevolent God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for wholeness in our nation; for the safety of our nation's elected leaders; for an end to domestic violence; for an end to prejudice; and for an end to civic terrorism. *A brief silence.*

We pray to you, sovereign God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for a halt to the pandemic; for all who have contracted Covid-19; for health workers; for the prompt distribution of vaccines; and for all who today will die from the virus.

A brief silence.

We pray to you, compassionate God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for all who are sick and suffering; for those with chronic pain; for those experiencing despair; for infants born impaired and for the aged in decline; and for all whom we name here: . *silence.*

We pray to you, consoling God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray finally for ourselves; for steady trust in your power; and for health in our weakness.

A longer period of silence.

We pray to you, loving God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We praise you for the faithful departed and for their lives of service to others; and we pray that despite sickness and death, at our end we join with them to find our wholeness in you.

A brief silence.

We pray to you, eternal God: **We await your steadfast love.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

How to give

*You can give an offering to Peace in Christ by mailing it to
PO Box 2098, Elizabeth, CO, 80107 or by giving on line through tithe.ly.
Which can be used through this QR code:*



As forgiven and reconciled people, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God. **Amen**

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive our gifts as you receive us:
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.
Nourish us anew in your tender care,
and empower us in faithful service
to tend to others with this same love,
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.
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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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