

### THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Christ's Presence Unleashes the Power of the Gospel

*Lutheran Education Week*

January 26 & 27, 2013

#### AS WE GATHER

When Ezra read the Law to the Jews, who had recently returned from exile, they heard it gladly. But when Jesus came to His hometown and announced the Good News, His neighbors tried to kill Him. Today, we rejoice that God has worked faith in our hearts so that we firmly believe the Gospel. But as God's faith-filled people, we do not respond as mere individuals; Paul reminds us in the Epistle---we are members of the whole Body of Christ. Each of us possesses unique gifts and opportunities to infuse the world with the Holy Gospel. Together with all the Church, we are to spill into the lives of broken people God's incomparable divine grace and mercy through His Word and caring gestures. We can do this through faith-filled living.

#### WELCOME

**“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8**

#### MINISTRY MOMENT

**+ PREPARATION +**

#### OPENING HYMN #807 “When Morning Gilds The Morning Skies”

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
When evening shadows fall, This rings my curfew call;  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs;  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

God's holy house of prayer Hath none that can compare  
With “Jesus Christ be praised!”

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav'n is known  
Than “Jesus Christ be praised!”

There to the eternal Word The eternal psalm is heard:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find; “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
Let all the earth around Ring joyous with the sound: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, “Jesus, Christ be praised!”

God's whole creation o'er, Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!”

(Rise)

#### INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

#### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

**People: Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!** *Psalm 19:13a*

Pastor: Although "the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (*Psalm 19:8b*), when we hear it in our fallen state, we cannot delight in God or His will. We are like the people in Ezra's day, who "wept as they heard the words of the Law" (*Nehemiah 8:9b*). But because God has worked faith in our hearts, we believe Jesus alone unleashes the Good News---the promised forgiveness and grace from God. Because we can be confident in Christ we are now free to confess our sins and live a new life in Him.

#### CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we have neglected to hear your Word. We have not conformed our lives to it in what we think, say, or do. We have not loved you wholeheartedly and we have failed to use our Spirit-given gifts to build one another up in the Body of Christ. Forgive us and turn us toward your Word that we may continually delight in you and your life-giving promises.**

Pastor: Jesus told the people of His hometown "today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (*Luke 4:21*). In your hearing now, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Hear it; receive it; believe it! You are forgiven!

**People: Amen.**

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

**"This is the Feast"**

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**Refrain: 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. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

*Continued*

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*  
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, You have revealed and fulfilled your will for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus---the incarnate Word.

**People: Strengthen now our faith in Him and dispel our doubts, so that we may truly delight in hearing your Word and in conforming our lives to it;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**5:00 BAPTISM of Brielle Elaine Schroeder**

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**10:30 BAPTISM of Evlyn Dorthy Ferrell**

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*Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.*

### + WORD +

**OLD TESTAMENT** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (*Ezra reads the Law to the Jews who have returned from exile.*) all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**EPISTLE 1** Corinthians 12:12-31a (*One Body with Many Members*) The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or

free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

### ANTHEM

*"You Are Mine"*

*Grade School Children*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 4:16-30 (*Jesus is rejected at Nazareth.*) He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" "I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON HYMN #783 "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

## SERMON

### "Risky Living"

Matthew 25:14-27

(Rise)

### 8:00 APOSTLES' CREED *(inside back cover of hymnal)*

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastor: Let us pray to our Father in heaven, lift up prayers for ourselves, Christ's church, and all people. Almighty God, You have given us the gift of salvation in your Son, Jesus Christ, that we might also share with others His great love and forgiveness.

**People: Fill us with your Spirit, make us bold witnesses, and help us to humbly invite others to join our fellowship in Christ.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, we pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit that we may hear the voice of the Lord speaking in His Word.

**People: Grant us to respond with heartfelt praise and thanksgiving for the Good News of healing, freedom and the forgiveness of sins found in Christ Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, fill us with your Spirit that we would be courageous in these spiritually perilous times.

**People: Strengthen us to stand firm in your truth, grant us to grow in knowing your Holy Scriptures, that we may not waver in times of trial, but trust your Word of promise.**

Pastor: Dear Father, we pray for the places where we teach and learn your Word, for St. Paul's Lutheran School and all the schools of our Church, for our colleges and seminaries, and especially for those preparing for full-time service to the Church, that they may be prepared to serve you faithfully.

**People: We pray also for our Synod, for Matthew our Synod President, John, our District President, Gregg and Hal, our pastors and all missionaries and church workers, that through their service the kingdom of Christ may be advanced.**

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for the leaders of this nation including all elected and appointed civil servants; we pray for all who make, administer and judge our laws.

**People: Bless the causes of peace and justice, here and throughout the world; guide, guard, and protect all who serve in the armed forces of our nation, and grant us to live godly lives in quietness and peace.**

Pastor: God, the source of healing and compassion, we pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving and the dying, especially for Jean, Lois, Irma, Louise, Nancy, Sarah, Gerald and Joe, that you may support them in every need.

**People: Grant that all who call upon the Lord in their time of need may know the comfort of His presence and find His grace to be sufficient.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, as many of us will gather at your table this day, we pray that we may receive the gift of your body and blood with faith,

**People: and that our participation may declare the unity of faith in your Word and Promises and that Christ's love may be manifest in our lives.**

Pastor: We rejoice with those who celebrate your blessings in their lives, especially John and Lois, and Mark whose loved one was delivered from the darkness of death, for your goodness toward us knows no bounds. We celebrate with Brielle and Evlyn, newly baptized members of our family.

**People: Bless our fellowship and life together, that we may also bear one another's burdens and so fulfill our Lord's call to love one another as He has loved us.**

Pastor: Almighty God, accept the tithes and offerings we bring as signs of our gratitude and part of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

**People: Move us to be generous and faithful over all the resources with which you have supplied us.**

Pastor: Hear our prayers and answer us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## 8:00 THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI HYMN

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

#### HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today With Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,  
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding  
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,  
Blood and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.

Continued

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Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry tremor,  
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

#### HYMN #806 "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart" (Sung twice)

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy one,

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong." Let the poor say "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say "I am strong,"

Let the poor say "I am rich," Because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks, give thanks.

#### HYMN #785 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;

We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our father, we bless You;

Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.

When perils o'er take us, You will not forsake us,

And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.

To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

#### COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that in this Sacrament you have again shown us your great love and forgiveness in the death and resurrection of your Son. Strengthen us thereby, we pray, so that we may

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delight to serve you here in time and hereafter in eternity; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"**

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields,  
Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You That with our neighbor  
We may be fed. Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,  
Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding  
Teach us to share One with another, So that, rejoicing With us,  
all others May know Your care.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist  
Flautist 5:00 & 10:30  
Jr. High Choir Director  
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Gregg Stanton  
Mary Osell, Russell Hurst, Pam Akey  
Naomi Saldaña, Connor Boinski, Amanda Crist  
Roger Gottschalk  
Vicki Novotny  
Shannon Wiegert  
Kim Woller



**"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."** Acts 2:38-39

*National Lutheran Schools Week 2013*  
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