

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The Beginning of Service

February 3 & 4, 2018

AS WE GATHER

Today's Readings are a gracious reminder to us that, in His love for His people, God is willing to rescue and protect us; and as the almighty Lord over all, He is certainly able! The people in Isaiah's day were wondering about God's protection as they feared neighboring states, but the prophet reminds them that God is in control of all things, ready and able to help them. When Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and many others who were suffering from both sickness and demons, He demonstrated His power to save from opponents on every level. And when Paul became "all things to all people," he was bringing them Gospel, God's ultimate rescue from sin, death, and the devil. And now, the blessings of the Gospel come to us today through Word and Sacrament from our strong and loving God.

WELCOME

"To [the saints] God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Stanzas 1 & 2

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

(Rise) INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: David speaks for us as we, God's people, waver between strong faith in Him and fear of other forces. Let us join with David speaking his words as a guide for confession.

All: "I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me."

Pastor: God has blessed us so often!

People: Yet we confess, heavenly Father, that we have wondered about your care in times of distress. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, our God.

All: "Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed over him,' lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken."

Pastor: God is greater than any foe!

People: Yet we confess, gracious Lord, that at times our faith has been shaky—when you have not answered our prayers immediately, and when pain, sadness, or fear have increased. In our distress, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us, O Lord, our God.

All: "But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation."

Pastor: God has indeed worked salvation for us! Through Jesus' death and resurrection, He has conquered sin, death, and the devil. He covers even our doubts and the weaknesses of our faith with Christ's own righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

All: 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. "I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me."

HYMN OF PRAISE #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" Stanzas 3-5

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: and also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, strengthen our faith that we rely on you for all things,

People: and that we would be confident of your almighty power and eternal love in all circumstances;

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)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 40:21–31* (The Lord reminds His people that He is willing and able to defend them.) Do 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? It 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; who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely 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. To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift 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. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have 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. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but 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.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 9:16–27* (Paul changes his approach to win different people.) For 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! For 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. What 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. For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To 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. To 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. To 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

CHOIR ANTHEM (5:00) “*Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:29–39* (Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law and many others.) And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And 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. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” And 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.” And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #398 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hail to the Lord's anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,
To take away transgression And rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him, His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever – That name to us is Love.

SERMON

"Healed to Serve"

Mark 1:29-39

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father of glory, you are great in mercy, abundant in power and your understanding is beyond measure. Remember your whole Church throughout the world. Renew and strengthen your children as they wait patiently for your glorious salvation to be revealed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Lord, your Son is the great physician of both body and soul. We thank you for healing our bodies and bringing grace and forgiveness to heal our souls. In gratitude for such abundant healing, help us to follow the example of Simon's mother-in-law and use our lives in service to you and others. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you send forth messengers to preach the Gospel. Help all servants of the Word to proclaim your truth with joy and zeal. We especially pray for Rachel Meyer and Pastor Chuck Ferry and family as they serve in the mission field. Guard and protect them from the assaults of the evil one and their own flesh. Give them grace to live self-controlled and disciplined lives, that your name may be hallowed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we ask your blessing upon our Voters' Assembly this weekend as we extend a call for an Early Childhood Director to come and serve among us. Bless the person we call to prayerfully consider the call and guide us all into your perfect will. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Ruler of all, you sit enthroned above all human might and power. Give to all entrusted with authority the wisdom to recognize your rule and bless them with the humility to serve the common good of our citizens. Remember all in our armed forces and our first responders in every community, and protect them in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind One, as the people of Capernaum gathered about your Son, bringing to Him all who were in need, we bring before you in prayer this day all who are sad and lonely, the sick and injured, the hospitalized and homebound, the anguished and despairing and all we have been asked to remember, especially your servants Joyce, Sue, Janet, Donna, Dolores, Pat, Cliff, Jerry, Dee, Manley, Debbie, Pat, Charles, Ruth, Shirley, Gladys, Herb, Matthew, Russ, Arlene, Dorothy, John, Arlene, LuEva, Jean, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Helen, Leonard, and Sarah. Heal the broken-hearted, bind up their wounds and give your people grace to trust your unfailing love. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of life and love, we thank you for the gift of marriage and we rejoice with Don and Junie upon their 67th wedding anniversary. Bless them abundantly as they continue to love and cherish each other. Bless all Christian marriages with kindness, love, and faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, you lift up the humble. Grant to all who come to the altar this day the humility to trust Christ's promise as He comes to give us His true body and blood for our forgiveness and to give us a share in His own divine life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy Father, your Son has promised to raise all the dead and give to all who trust in Him eternal life. Receive our thanksgiving for your faithful ones who have fallen asleep in Christ and who await the moment of their final and full healing at the resurrection of the dead. Bless Larry and Carol as they remember her mother on her birthday. Bring us with all the faithfully departed to share in the joy of His glorious appearing. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(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 #535 "How Wide the Love of Christ"

How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity Within its broad embrace.

How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound In everlasting peace.

How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives Unmeasured mercy pours.

How deep the love of Christ, Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands All human pain and loss.

All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space With endless life and light!

HYMN #550 “Lamb of God”

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain:

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

HYMN #727 “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!”

Refrain:

**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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have
graciously given us strength and showered us with love in this
salutary gift,

**People: and we ask you thereby to enable us to serve willingly and
joyfully in your name;**

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #816 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

From all that dwell below the skies Let the creator’s praise arise;
Alleluia, alleluia! Let the Redeemer’s name be sung
Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies Lord: Eternal truth attends Thy Word.
Alleluia, alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.
Alleluia, alleluia! Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Choir Director

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Marc Stefanic, Debra Nier, Melissa Leon

Sophia Moravec, Ashton Poritz, Luna Ramos

Michelle Prince

Nancy Hoelke

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