

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Being Kind to One Another

February 4 & 5, 2017

AS WE GATHER

"Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, lead Thou me on!" These poetic words by John Henry Newman, an English clergyman, begin a hymn that is much loved in many parts of the Christian community worldwide. The linking of the light that is Christ with the descriptive word *kindly*, which is related to the attribute of kindness, is appropriate to the Epiphany season. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls His hearers to be lights in the world. Letting our light shine with kindness is evidence of the fruit of the Spirit growing in, through, and among us.

WELCOME

"Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: Jesus appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory." (1 Timothy 3:16)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #906 "O Day of Rest and Gladness" *Rise for last stanza*

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light, O balm of care and sadness,
Most beautiful, most bright; This day the high and lowly,
Through ages joined to bless, Sing, "Holy, holy, holy," The triune God confess.

This day at earth's creation The light first had its birth; This day for our salvation
Christ rose from depths of earth; This day our Lord victorious
The Spirit sent from heav'n, And thus this day most glorious
A threefold light was giv'n.

This day, God's people meeting, His Holy Scripture hear;
His living presence greeting, Through bread and wine made near.
We journey on, believing, Renewed with heav'nly might,
From grace more grace receiving, On this blest day of light.

(Rise) That light our hope sustaining, We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining, Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

People: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God's kindness toward us knows no limits. Let us go to Him, confident that He will grant us forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to show kindness, the fruit of your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. We have not loved you completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We know that you call us to share our bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into our house. We have let opportunities to show kindness slip away from us, exhibiting only what was expected of us and keeping your kindness hidden within us. Our Lord Jesus revealed His person and ministry through His words and actions. In your great mercy, forgive, renew, and lead us so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE **“This is the Feast”**

Page 171

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

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

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb
forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

(Be seated)

THEME CELEBRATION

“Kindness”

Proverbs 31:26; 21:21

Pastor: In describing the woman who fears the Lord and is a blessing to those around her, Proverbs says, “She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.” This wisdom reminds us that kindness is a fruit of the Spirit that benefits from cultivation. Finding ways to be kind is a lifelong occupation. Also in Proverbs, we read this word that includes a divine promise, “Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.” We add kindness to the list of the fruit of the Spirit and sing of the benefit that it can bring.

HYMN #691

“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

3

(Rise)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus revealed His identity and mission through words and deeds.

People: Grant that your Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that we may be revealed as His faith-filled followers as we demonstrate the Spirit’s fruit of kindness whenever needs arise among friends and family, strangers or enemies;

Pastor: through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 58:3–9* (The “fast” God wants is that we care for others.) ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 2:1–16* (We proclaim Christ crucified, as the Spirit has revealed Him.) When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith

4 continued

might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

5:00 ANTHEM

"1st Song of Isaiah"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 5:13–20* (You are salt and light in the world.)

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #578

"Thy Strong Word"

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives, our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

SERMON

"Salt and Light"

Matthew 5:13-20

(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.

10:30 BELL ANTHEM *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord God, heavenly Father, we come before you as sinners who have transgressed your commands, often seeking our own pleasures while overlooking the needs of our neighbors. In your mercy, we ask that you would forgive our sins and incline our hearts to fear you and delight in your commandments.

People: Guide us continually to love you above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: Merciful Father, the apostles were not sent to proclaim the wisdom of men, but your wisdom, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Grant pastors to proclaim that same truth among us today. Lead them all by your Spirit to be faithful under-shepherds of your flock.

People: Guard them from the temptations of the evil one, that they may be pure in life, in faith and in doctrine. Protect them especially during times of persecution, that your sheep may always hear your Word and cling to the hope that it brings.

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for mission work at home and abroad. Bless all missionaries, especially our Together in Mission Partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family, that they may be bold witnesses for Christ. Bless our Groundwork Guatemala team as they prepare to serve on a short term mission trip.

People: Bless all those who serve in Christ’s kingdom and especially be with those who are persecuted for Christ’s sake. Guard and protect them and keep them faithful even through difficult times.

Pastor: Almighty God, we ask that you would grant health and wisdom to all who are in authority over us, especially the president and Congress of the United States and all our governors and judges.

People: Direct them to actions that are in accord with your will, that we may be governed in peace and with justice.

Pastor: Lord of life, we give you thanks for giving us the precious gift of life and rejoice with Ervin Yanke and family as he celebrates his 90th birthday; grant him joy in this life that you have given to him. We also give thanks for Tim and Dawn and their service to our Lord.

People: Grant us daily to rejoice in all the good gifts that come from your hand.

Pastor: Loving Father, we ask that you would look with favor upon all who are in sickness, pain or trouble especially this week we ask for Ervin, Bill, Larry, Flora, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Roemelle, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Leonard, Linda, Gladys, Jack, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Give them patience and comfort in their affliction and, if it pleases you, restore them to health or give them grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope.

Pastor: Lord God, you join man and woman into the one-flesh union of marriage, and when you see fit, you grant the blessing of children. Strengthen the marriages of your people against the temptations of the world.

People: Bless all marriages, keeping couples pure, and leading them to raise up the faithful offspring you seek.

Pastor: O God, your Son calls those who hear and believe His Word to be the light of the world. By your Word and Sacraments, hold us fast in the true faith.

People: Make our light to shine before others and that our good works would lead them to proclaim your glory.

Pastor: God of comfort and consolation, console and uphold those who grieve the passing of loved ones. Bless Carol as she remembers her mother on her birthday.

People: For all of us who have seen loved ones pass on, fill us with hope in the resurrection and life of the world to come.

Pastor: Into your hands, dear Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Page 180

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, 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 #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

"There is a Redeemer"

There is a Redeemer Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God Messiah Holy One

**Chorus: Thank You O my Father For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit Till the work on earth is done**

Jesus my Redeemer name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah O for sinners slain **Chorus**

When I stand in glory I will see His face
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place **Chorus**

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HYMN #617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

O Lord we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast there-of remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, heavenly Father, that you have refreshed us through this Sacrament, and we pray that, strengthened thereby, we will exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in all that we do in our daily living; 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, who gave His Son for the life of the world; the Son, who has revealed to us God’s grace, mercy, and love; and the Spirit, by whose fruit we are seen to be children of God—bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #918 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

Accompanied by our Handbell Choir at the 10:30 service

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:

Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;

Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee; I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Liturgist

Pastor Harold Bender

Lectors

Debbie Ulbing, Pam Akey, Pat Graf

Acolytes

Jennifer Moyle, Aidyn Roska, Caden Gibbs

Organist & Bell Choir Director

Michelle Prince

Choir Director

Nancy Hoelke