

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Live in Peace

January 21 & 22, 2017

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The journey of a disciple of Jesus may take many directions. As one of the first men called to discipleship by the Lord, Peter found that his world was turned around and changed forever. And yet, in following the Lord, he found a peace that passed all understanding. In the final words of his second epistle, he wrote to his Christian flock, "Therefore, beloved . . . be . . . at peace" (2 Peter 3:14). The people of God are peaceable people through whom the Spirit works, fashioning them as peacemakers and peace-bringers to a world in need of the peace that is in Christ alone.

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

"Christ Is Our Rock"

Christ is our rock, the firm cornerstone;
Our faith is built on Jesus alone!
In Him we find our refuge of grace;
Held in the stronghold of His embrace.

***Refrain: Upon the Rock of Salvation we stand;
Jesus will bring us to His Father's land!
Faithfully rest on Jesus, God's Son,
Who, for the world, salvation has won!***

Rooted in Jesus we'll ever be
One with the Father eternally.
Christ, on the cross, redeemed us from sin;
Killed so that we might new life begin. ***Refrain***

The stone was rolled away from the tomb;
Sin, death, and sorrow have no more room.
When Christ arose upon Easter day
All Satan's pow'r was taken away. ***Refrain***

Jesus, the Living Stone, ever reigns;
The Risen One has broken our chains!
No longer captives, we have been freed
To love and serve all people in need. ***Refrain***

Tell of His power, sing of His might!
Christ leads us out of darkness to light
Calling each daughter and ev'ry son
To teach all nations what He has done! ***Refrain***

(Rise)

Praise to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Spirit; God Three-in-One.
With all the saints and angels we bring
Glory and Honor as we now sing: ***Refrain***

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: So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In peace let us pray to our heavenly Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to live in the fruit of your Holy Spirit, in our thinking, speaking, and acting. We have not loved you completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have let the turmoil in this world subvert the peace you have provided us. We have not let our hearts take courage or waited for the Lord.

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

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav’nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

THEME CELEBRATION

“Peace” 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Numbers 6:26

Pastor: In concluding 2 Thessalonians, Paul has special words of benediction: “Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you.” For God’s people, peace has always been a focus of prayer and of living. To live with a sense of inner peace is the greatest of blessings. The final word we hear in the Benediction is “peace” as the blessing spoken by Aaron over the children of Israel is recited.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, by the sacrifice of your Son, you have established peace with us sinners.

People: Give us the peace that passes all understanding so that we might live in peace with one another;

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

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

HYMN #763

“When Peace, Like a River”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, It is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul! It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back
as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well
with my soul. It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

☩ WORD ☩

PSALM 18:1–3, 31–32, 46–50

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my
stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my
enemies... For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? – the God
who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless...The Lord lives, and
blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation – the God who gave me
vengeance and subdued peoples under me, who rescued me from my enemies; yes, you
exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from the man of

People: Bless them to be places of rigorous learning, but especially places where both student and teacher alike grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, we pray that Christians may not be divided either by false teaching or foolish quarrels, but that they might live united in the wisdom of Christ.

People: As the baptized children of your grace and salvation, help us all to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we pray for the holy ministry, asking you to raise up pastors who will faithfully preach and teach your holy Word.

People: Bless them to work together with your holy people to extend the kingdom of Christ.

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray that you would deliver many from gloom and add many to your kingdom of grace.

People: Deliver people from walking in darkness and bring them to the light of salvation in Christ.

Pastor: Lord of all nations, increase wisdom among rulers and magistrates, that they may be leaders who uphold justice and govern with integrity.

People: Lead us by your Spirit to be obedient citizens and grant us to live in peace.

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray for children in the womb; guard and protect them and remember those forsaken by father and mother.

People: Grant to your people a steadfast courage to speak on behalf of the unborn, and bring to naught all those who would sacrifice these little ones on an altar of human wisdom or convenience.

Pastor: Lord of all compassion, we pray for those who live in the darkness of loneliness and depression; attend to them in the shadows and strengthen their faith so that they know they are not forsaken.

People: Move us to show them love and support and deliver them to the joyful light of your grace and salvation.

Pastor: God of healing and hope, we pray for all who are afflicted by disease, pain, and struggles, especially Erv, Bill, Leonard, Eleanor, Gilberte, LouAnn, Larry, Flora, Virginia, Eleanor, Marion, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Dorothy, John, Arlene, Roemelle, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Linda, Gladys, Jack, Shirley, and Sarah.

People: Grant that our Lord who healed disease and affliction among the people of Galilee might deliver them according to His will.

Pastor: Lord of our salvation, we pray for all who will receive the Sacrament of the Altar, that they would receive this precious gift with repentant faith.

People: Bless us to live in the hope, joy and peace that comes through the gift of His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Pastor: We give thanks to you, Almighty God, for your faithful people who have departed this life and now gaze upon your beauty in glory as they await the day of the resurrection. Until that day when we join them, grant us strength and courage by your grace to trust your promises and await the glorious appearing of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 #912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus proclaim
In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

Preacher	Pastor Gregg Stanton
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Barb Heimsoth, Jo Shemanske, Jim Dittman, Danielle Jackson, Jack Burkee, Principal Rick Schneider
Acolytes	Laura Quigley, Brey Rudig
Children's Message	Sarah Zellmer, Melissa Leon, Michelle Prince
Organist	Michelle Prince