

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 7, 2021**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “10,000 Reason” Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwIT8JjddM>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: 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.

P: Amen.

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

P: 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.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: 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.

P: 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.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SONG: “Power Shuffle” Group VBS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNEAtmq6oTE>

PSALM OF THE DAY: 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!

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

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

⁴The 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.

⁶The 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,

⁸who 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.

¹⁰God 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!

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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 Jewish people I became as a Jew, in order to win the Jewish people. 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.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:29-39

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. ³¹Jesus 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 sundown, they brought to Jesus 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.

(continued on next page)

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus 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." ³⁸Jesus 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.

PREACHING TEXT: Isaiah 40:21-31

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 God 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 the great 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 God 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?

The one who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because God 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.
The LORD does not faint or grow weary;
the understanding of God is unsearchable.

²⁹The LORD 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.

SERMON: “Behold Your God”

Pastor Jerome Evavold

SONG: “On Eagle’s Wings” Michael Crawford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEdtw63reio>

INSTALLATION OF ELECTED TEAM AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shivon: The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to wave on their Zoom screens as their names are read:

**Jordan Cohen
Dawn Kregness
Kathy Gilbertson
Naydean Ringdahl
Emily Laman
Sandy Keyser
Brittany Oesteich
Kathy Myers
Diane Whiffen
Barb Lewis
Jeff Pikerling
Heidi Johnson
JoAnn Salmela
Tom Meador**

**Jody Berquist
Marilyn Toscano
Mallory Thorne
Rebecca Oachs
Darlene Morris
Joanne Morris
Sherry Rushing
Eric Skadsberg
Gene Keyser
Jerry Ewer
Ruth Anderson
Brenda Bonnema
Brent Consie
Ann Clark**

Shivon: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Shivon: St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.

Jerome: You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in the congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified.

You are to be example of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Team and Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.

Jerome: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so please unmute and respond:

Congregation Members: Yes, by the help of God.

Jerome: I now declare you installed as Ministry Team and Council Members of this congregation. God bless you with God's Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: "Thankful" Group Publishing VBS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_ewLEvA8_o

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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:

Kathy Myers, John Ario, Marilyn Peterson, the Tomaich Family, and the family of Diana Cook who funeral was last Thursday.

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; we remember before you Diane Cook and ask your healing presence with Walter and her family. We pray that despite sickness and death, at our end we join with all the saints to find our wholeness in you. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

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



SENDING SONG: "Everlasting God" Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yubLGTOcm8c>

AFTER THOUGHTS

February 7, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Where the Crowd Is

"Have you not known? Have you not heard?" So begins the prophet Isaiah's marvelous declaration (Isaiah 40:21, 28).

People were stirring in Capernaum, Simon Peter's seaside fishing town. Apparently the whole city knew and heard; why else, at day's end, would all the houses have emptied out leaving fish to be cleaned, floors to be swept, children to be bathed, wheat to be ground, and goats to be milked, so people could huddle at his door?

In the morning, crowds were again on the move, this time near the deserted place where Jesus was in prayerful retreat. Apparently everyone knew and heard; why else, at such an hour, would people in neighboring towns have delayed breakfasts, postponed boat launchings, put off opening markets, set aside filling lamps, put down mending, to go searching for him?

Some years ago, theologian Douglas John Hall wrote a provocative book, *Waiting for Gospel*. Its cover pictures an individual standing alone in an open field, looking down, waiting. The book presents a critique and reminder for the church: whole cities, neighboring towns, are crowding doors, searching deserted places for good news, for gospel. But is the church sharing the gospel?

Isn't someone always selling snake-oil solutions for shriveled hearts, beachfront on a desert seashore, joy from a pill? What are we to believe? Who are we to listen to? When pandemic wobbles the globe, seas rise and economies fall, depressions blossom and hopes wither; when people starve in the shadow of mountains of rotting food, artificial intelligence baits kitchen table wisdom, virtual relationships land knockout blows to authentic community, and "mass" is the prefix to "incarceration," "migration," and "destruction"—which door are we to crowd? Where are we to search?

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Good news draws a crowd; the gospel is found in Jesus!

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