

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 7, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

PRELUDE *Prelude in C* JS Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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THE GREETING

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

C And also with you

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest*



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 40:21-31

21 Have 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?

22 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 live in;

23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;
because he 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.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

29He 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.

The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

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.

20cHallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON.....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 Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. 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.

The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL.....Mark 1:29-39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. 31He 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 sunset, they brought to him 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.


35In the morning, while it was still very dark, he 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.” 38He 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.


C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON


Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants




your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Let us pray/Have mercy, O God.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

C 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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen

I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Puer Nobis Nascitur* Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

+++++

Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

LECTOR Drew Hausmann

CANTOR/SONG LEADER Ray Huff

ORGANIST Sam Robinson

Our Stewardship is not available at this time

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is “Super Bowl Sunday” and once again the youth of St. Mark's are collecting cans of soup to help stock the food pantry of the United Churches of Lycoming County. Our famous “Football Tub” is in the Front Lounge ready to accept cans of soup (and/or any canned goods). These items may be dropped off during Church Office Hours (please call 570-323-4619 for times). If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made to support the many ministries of Shepherd of the Streets (please note “Souper Bowl of Caring” on the memo line).

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday over 30 years ago: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. Amen”.

Together, let us help fight hunger in Williamsport! Thank You!

Church Congregational Council meets February 8, 6 pm and not February 15. Please note the change in date.

The Faith and Fellowship and Outreach Committees thank the congregation for their many donations of non-perishable food items, snacks and hygiene products during the Advent and Christmas seasons. A total of 335 food items and snacks were distributed to the American Rescue Workers Food Pantry and the New

Covenant UCC Blessing Boxes. The United Churches Food Pantry is requesting only monetary donations be given at this time. The 106 hygiene items were welcomed by the Shepherd of the Streets' office. The Shepherd requested that the blankets, toothpaste and toothbrushes be given to Family Promise for use at their Day Center as currently SOS is well stocked with those particular items. All of the churches and nonprofits were grateful for our donations. Thank you again for sharing in the caring.

Camp Mt. Luther is gearing up for Summer 2021! Camping brochures, information regarding openings for staff and volunteers and special events held at the camp are available from the Church Office (570-323-4619).

Flower Tributes: Although we do not have flowers while in-person worship is suspended, we can still have "Flower Tributes". The tributes and sponsors from the "Altar Flower Book" will be honored and printed in the bulletin. A donation of \$10.00 is recommended. If you do not have a date scheduled for altar flowers but would like to participate, please contact Sally Bjornstad (570-494-6637).

By action of our Congregational Council, all in-person worship services including Ash Wednesday Eucharist and Mid-week Lenten Services have been suspended until further notice. Virtual worship by way of video will continue to be offered for all worship services through our web page and Facebook. Should you be in need of pastoral care, please contact our church office (570-323-4619).

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