

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

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.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge, **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #617 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

- 1. We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind, and soul, and pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.**
- 2. As once you walked through ancient streets and reach toward those in pain, come, risen Christ, among us still with pow'r to heal again.**
- 3. You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care, and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**
- 4. When nights are long with wakefulness, through days when strength runs low, grant us our gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.**
- 5. We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain, in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

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Prayer of the Day

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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

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 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;

²³who brings princes 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 he 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?
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.

Psalm: 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!
²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**
³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
⁴**The 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.
⁶**The 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,
⁸**who 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.
¹⁰**God 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. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The servant of God took our infirmities and bore our diseases. *Alleluia.*
(*Matt. 8:17*)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #843

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sigh. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

3. Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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Apostle's 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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Hymn ELW #686 "We Give Thee I Own" 1st verse

**1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is
thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

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Offering Prayer

**Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup
you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see. All are welcome.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn ELW #792 "When Memory Fades"

- 1. When mem'ry fades, and recognition falters, when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused, speak to our souls of love that never alters; speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused. O God of Life and healing peace, empow'r us with patient courage, by your grace infused.**
- 2. As frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish, in weary arms which worked their earnest fill, your aging servants labor now to finish their earthly tasks, as fits your mercy's will. We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing, your arms unwearied, shall uphold us still.**
- 3. Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one. All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading. No valued deed will ever be undone. Your mind enfolds all finite acts and off'rings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.**

Post-communion Blessing Prayer after Communion

Blessing

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✝ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #673 "God, Whose Almighty Word"

1. **God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight;
here us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not into glorious
ray, let there be light.**
2. **Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight;
health to the troubled mind, sight were illusions blind; oh, now to
humankind let there be light.**
3. **Spirit of truth and love, lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight; move
on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.**
4. **Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love Might; boundless as
ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let
there be light.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements:

- **Building Committee**, February 6, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
- **Bible Study**, February 7, 2024 @ 9:00 am
- **150th Anniversary Group meeting**, February 8, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
- **Ash Wednesday**, February 14, 2024 service @ 6:30pm, Dinner @ 5:30 pm

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