

Epiphany 5, February 7, 2021, Order of Worship

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The readings this week all point us in the same direction: True power comes from the Lord.

- The psalmist praises God, who lifts up those who are beaten down. It's not those with human strength who are truly mighty, but those who are empowered by God.
- Isaiah asks his audience, **Who is like God?** God never grows weary and provides unfailing strength to those who wait for him.
- In Mark Jesus heals many people to demonstrate his power over the physical world.

Call to Worship, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Note: Location, location, location: *You* are in the Psalm! *Jesus* is in heaven. *We* are in "exile" now, but just as he calls each star by name, he also delights in each of us. Praise the Lord! -- Psalms 146-150 all begin and end with "Praise the Lord!"

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! The Lord builds up Jerusalem (their spiritual home even while in exile); he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground. Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.... Praise the Lord!

Confession and Forgiveness for the season of Epiphany

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God. Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways** (Psalm 139:1a, 3b). **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** (Psalm 139:4); **receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues (public domain)

LBW 559, ELW 886

***Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!***

***He breaks the power of canceled sin; he sets the prisoner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.***

***To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n.
By saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heav'n.***

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day Eternal God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, so 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

Installation of Officers and other elected officials

A reading from Isaiah, the 40th chapter (40:21-31) The Judeans in exile have good reason to be hopeful: the one who will free them is the God who created the world, who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 88).

Isaiah speaks: ***Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.***

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The Holy One says, "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" (Isaiah speaks) Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Word of God, word of life.

Alleluia Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter (1:29-39), Sermon (page 6)

Hymn of the Day God, Whose Almighty Word (public domain) LBW 400, ELW (MM 1744)

***God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray, and where the Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!***

***Lord, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind, sight where illusions blind, oh, now to humankind
Let there be light!***

The Apostle's Creed

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.

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Prayers (from *Sundays and Seasons*, 2020, p. 88)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord of our calling, we pray for your church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, and for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we pray for all you have made: clouds on the mountaintop, cattle and the water they drink, and those who protect our natural resources and all that exists. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, we pray for all who govern in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and business-people; and for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness they may find freedom in service to those most in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, bearer of burdens, we pray for those who are wearied by life; for those who are poor, those lacking supportive relationships, those crushed by debt; for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, those exhausted from overwork or stress; and for all who cry out to you (especially those we name now in the silence of our hearts). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who are absent from worship, those celebrating special events while distanced or apart; for the people of God in this place, and for other needs in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of Resurrection, we give thanks for the covenant you made with us in the waters of baptism, and for those who have died in the Lord. Bestow your comfort on all who grieve for lost ones. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Receiving

Communion Blessing

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Benediction: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *If You But Trust in God* (public domain) LBW 453, ELW 769 (MM 3458)

*If you but trust in God to guide you and place your confidence in him,
You'll find him always there beside you, to give you hope and strength within.
For those who trust God's changeless love build on the rock that will not move.*

*Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving, offer your service faithfully,
And trust his word; though undeserving, you'll find his promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need the soul that trusts in him indeed.*

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!