

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany - February 7, 2021



God's true nature is revealed in his tenacity and tirelessness on behalf of the sick and brokenhearted. As Jesus began his public ministry, he traveled throughout Galilee healing the ill and casting out demons. Paul declared that Christ had placed him in a race of faith. His task was to preach the Good News, but it was not his will for his life, rather it was the Lord's will. To run with Christ is to win the race.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASTOR DAVE HANSEN (912) 826-2711

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MUSICAL PRELUDE, LIGHTING OF CANDLES - MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Stand, Spoken)*

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.

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 upon 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**

APOSTOLIC GREETING *(Spoken)*

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.

KYRIE *(Spoken)*

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **C: Amen**

HYMN "BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS OF THE MORNING" LBW #84 *(Sung)*

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dew drops are shining; Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**

(Continued)

**Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration, Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you.**

P: We join in prayer.

**Heavenly Father, by the blood of Your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good, that we may do
Your will. Work among us all that is well-pleasing in Your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(Sit)***

FIRST READING — ISAIAH 40:21-31

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? 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 dwell in; ²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

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

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong 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 to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they 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.

SECOND READING – 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-27

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, 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 not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL VERSE *(Stand, Sung)*

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

GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES – MARK 1:29-39 *(Spoken)*

P: The Holy Gospel from St. Mark chapter 1. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed 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.

³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE *(Sit)*

HYMN: "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY" LBW #390 *(Stand, Sung)*

**I love to tell the story Of unseen things above, Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true; It satisfies my longings As nothing else would do.**

**I love to tell the story: How pleasant to repeat What seems, each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, For some have never heard The message of salvation From God's own holy Word.**

**I love to tell the story, For those who know it best Seem hungering and thirsting To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story That I have loved so long.**

APOSTLES' CREED *(Spoken)*

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Spoken)*

OFFERING HYMN *(Sung)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: O Lord our God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.

C: With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

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

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

P: It is indeed right and for our good benefit that we should, at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who came among us to overcome our darkness by sharing the brilliant light of your glory and love. So, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT *(Sit)*

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *(Stand, Sung)*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(Spoken)*

P: Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and He in us, that we may be filled with the power of His endless life, now and forever. Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C: Amen**

HYMN: "SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US" *(Sung)*

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

**We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.**

**Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.**

**Early let us seek Thy favour, Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Saviour, With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!