

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**February 7, 2021**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as Pastor Matt begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,  
**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.**

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: "Gather Us In"***

1. Here in this place new light is streaming  
Now is the darkness vanished away  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings  
Brought here to you in the light of this day

2. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame  
Call to us now and we shall awaken  
We shall arise at the sound of our name
3. Not in the dark of buildings confining  
Not in some heaven light years away  
But here in this place the new light is shining  
Now is the kingdom, now is the day
4. Gather us in and hold us forever  
Gather us in and make us your own  
Gather us in, all peoples together  
Fire of love in our flesh and our bones

**Kyrie:** 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 Christ 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.**

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

### **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.**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31** (Read by the Worship Assistant)

<sup>21</sup>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?

<sup>22</sup>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;

<sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>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.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have 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.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but 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** (*Read together*)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all | by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God’s wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God’s steadfast love. <sup>20</sup>Hallelujah!

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23** (Read by the Worship Assistant)

<sup>16</sup>If 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! <sup>17</sup>For 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. <sup>18</sup>What 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.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To 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. <sup>21</sup>To 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. <sup>22</sup>To 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. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

**Gospel: Mark 1:21-39**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And 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.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He 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." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**Sermon**

**Hymn - "On Eagle's Wings"**

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

2. For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone Refrain

**Apostles' 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.**

**Sharing of the Peace** (nods, waves, “air hugs” to each other, only)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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

*A brief silence.*

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life’s burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you (*especially*), let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here (*especially*); for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

**Have mercy, O God.**

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.**

### **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.**

**Blessing**

God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: “Love the Lord”**

1. Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength  
Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength

2. With all your heart, with all your soul  
With all your mind, with all your strength  
Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart  
With all your soul, with all your mind  
And with all your strength

3. I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength  
I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

4. With all my heart, with all my soul  
With all my mind, with all my strength  
I will serve the Lord with all my heart  
With all my soul, with all my mind  
And with all my strength

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**