## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

## ~ February 4, 2024 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

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

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Dearest Jesus, at Your Word”***  LBW #248 ELW #520

Vs. 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come

again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 and in glowing faith be near you as the promises

here given draw us wholly up to heaven.

Vs. 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest

darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night,  
 filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and

all good living come but by your gracious giving.

Vs. 3 Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from

God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light;  
 help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and

songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.

Vs. 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and

adoration! Grant us what we need the most;  
 all your gospel's consolation while we here on

earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

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** LBW pg. 57ELW pg. 138

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 of Praise** LBW Pg 58 ELW pg. 139

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Prayer of the Day**

Everlasting God, your give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**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.*

**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. **27**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”?  
**28**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. **29**He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. **30**Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, **31**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 147:1-11, 20c**

**1**Hallelujah! 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.  
**3**The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.  
4The Lord counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names. The Lord heals the brokenhearted.  
**5**Great 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.**

**7**Sing 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. The Lord heals the brokenhearted.  
9**God 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,**

**11**but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God’s steadfast love. **20**Hallelujah!!

**The Lord heals the brokenhearted.**

**Second Lesson: 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.*

**16**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! **17**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. **18**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.

**19**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. **20**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 gain those under the law. **21**To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am within Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. **22**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. **23**I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I share in its blessings.

**Gospel Acclamation**  LBW Page 62 ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**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.*

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

**32**That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. **33**And the whole city was gathered around the door. **34**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.

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”***  LBW #543 ELW #858

Vs. 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
 O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
 Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
 joining in glad adoration!

Vs. 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
 and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
 Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
 sent by his gracious ordaining?

Vs. 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
 surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
 Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
 as with his love he befriend you.

Vs. 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
 Let the amen sound from his people again.  
 Gladly forever adore him!

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

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.

**Prayers of the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need especially

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

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #410ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 144

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 our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Arise, Your Light Has Come!***” WOV #673 ELW #860

Vs. 1 I’m so glad Jesus lifted me. I’m so glad,

Jesus lifted me. I’m so glad Jesus lifted me,  
 singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Vs. 2 Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound,

Jesus lifted me. Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,  
 singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Vs. 3 When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble,

Jesus lifted me. When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,  
 singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

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