

Service of the Word for the Home and for ZOOM  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 7, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

**Are You Online? Join Zoom Worship!**

Please email Caitlyn in the office at [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) to be added to the email list for a link to the service.

**Not Online? Join Us Over the Phone!**

+1 301 715 8592 US  
Meeting ID: 956 305 5281  
Password: 408299

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

Most merciful God,

**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.**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I 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.

**Amen.**

**HYMN** (next page)

# O God of Light



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

## GLORY TO GOD

### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: 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.**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### THE WORD

#### 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.*

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 147:1-11, 20** *read responsively*

<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>20c</sup> **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.*

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We welcome the gospel:

*Alleluia! The servant of God took our infirmities and bore our diseases. Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL      Mark 1:29-39

The Holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY *online*

### APOSTLES' 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.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of those in need.

We pray for the church's many ministries of healing; for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains; for those serving in prisons, camps, and institutions; and for bishops and pastors facing illness of which we are unaware. Hear our prayer, O God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for the health of people around the globe, especially for the people of Ethiopia and India; for international health organizations; for local and national medical services; and for school officials and teachers facing the pandemic. Hear our prayer, O God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for wholeness in our nation. Bring healing to families and friendships that have been torn apart by political strife. Make violence and abuse within families to cease, so that every home may be a place of refuge. Hear our prayer, O God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for a halt to the pandemic; for all who have contracted Covid-19; for health workers; for the prompt distribution of vaccines; and for all who today will die from the virus. Hear our prayer, O God: **We await your steadfast love.**  
We pray for all who are sick and suffering; for those with chronic pain; for those experiencing despair; for infants growing in the womb, for those who aged and frail, and for all those who depend on the care of others. Hear our prayer, O God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray finally for ourselves; for steady trust in your power; and for health in our weakness. (*Give a significant pause*)...  
Hear our prayers, O God: **We await your steadfast love.**

We praise you for the faithful departed and for their lives of service to others; and we pray that despite sickness and death, at our end we join with them to find our wholeness in you. Hear our prayers, O God. **We await your steadfast love.**

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

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Finally, as Jesus has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

#### **THE SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Holly Schubert	<b>Reader</b>
Signe Mitchell	<b>Organist</b>
Jim Cunningham	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Melody Kamerer	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Bob and Karen Domanski	<b>Counters</b>

*Flowers are given to the glory of God by Carol Sawford, in memory of her husband Brian Sawford and his twin sister Betty Sawford, and her mother Betty Fulton.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST ENGLISH

Monday, 2/8	5:00 PM	Community Dinner
	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	8:00 PM	NA Meeting
Tuesday, 2/9	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 2/10	7:00 PM	AA Meeting (Social Hall)
Thursday, 2/11	5:00 PM	NA Meeting
	7:30 PM	NA Meeting
Saturday, 2/13	9:00 AM	AA Meeting
	12:00 PM	NA Meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Lenten Services with BALM**

**Wednesdays at noon:** in-person midweek worship at Trinity Lutheran Church (which has the largest sanctuary and best opportunity for social distancing). These services will also be streamed on YouTube and reposted for later viewing.

**Wednesday evenings at 7 pm:** Online book or Bible study via Zoom. Pr. Kimberly will lead a book study on Samuel Wells' *The Power and the Passion: Six Characters in Search of Resurrection*. This book, which was chosen as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2007, examines how Jesus' death exposes the truth about our world and how the resurrection opens a new way of life by looking at six biblical characters: Pontius Pilate, Barabbas, Pilot's Wife, Peter, Joseph of Arimathea, and Mary Magdalene. Along the way, we will find insights on topics of contemporary importance: marriage, violence, friendship, and politics.

Pr. Joel Benson from Trinity will lead a Bible study, time and topic TBA. Both studies will be open to members of all congregations.

If you would like Easter flowers, please place your order with the church office (724) 283-2378 or [officefelc@zoominternet.net](mailto:officefelc@zoominternet.net) by Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the social room or you can contact the office for an order form.

### **PRAYERS**

Eleanor Roth, the family of Gene Fozard, David and Michele, the Jones family, the family of Jean Baldauf, Jamie Goehring, Jason Beckwith, and Devin, Codi, Savannah, Alyssa & Ethan, Rachel Faulkner, Graham Cannon, the family of Pastor Christine and Mark Rotella, Dewey Miller, Edna Hartman, and their loved ones; Debbie Damiano, Frida Nelson, Pam and children, the family and friends of Jake, the family of Marian Boltz, the family of Zack, Sue Morrow, Joan, Joey Lash, Andrea Dubler, Janice Critchlow, Pastor Karl Schoch, Anne Ferguson, the family of Dan Hanczar, Jeanette Cunningham, Marsh Miller, Ida Miller, Helen Wagner, the Lawson family, the Bodnar family, Tyler Jacob Huey, Meredith, Mary and Eleanor, Larry, Frederick Miller, Jim Buehler, Justin Buehler, Cyndy Halin, Cindy Regis & her daughter Angie, Josh, Aryl Bashline, Dave and Diana Braun, David and Gina & family, Shirley Sellers, Crystal, Gayle Wynn, Mary Maloney, the family of Ryan Warheit, the family of Scot Taylor, Claude, Audrey & Jonah Clark, Ed Beck, the family of Jim Templet, the family of Edgard Nieto, the family of Marjorie Ellis, Anita, Jamie and Kaitlin Sprague, Becky Wyckoff, Larry Hamil, Jan Nieto, David and Emma Lee Hartle, the family of Hailey Matheson, Ryan, Forest and Marietta White, Christine Pflugh, Asyiah, the family of Nancy, Joyce Hall, Bruni Bilowich, Karen Vavro, Doug Horner, Sandy, Lisa, Wendy, Rhonda, Judy M., Mary Ellen, Claudia, Karen, Kitty Walker, Gina Ambrosio, Elizabeth, Jena Wright, Tad Sellers, Ralph D'Antonio.

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

#### **2 Kings 2:1-12**

*Elijah taken up to heaven and succeeded by Elisha*

#### **Psalms 50:1-6**

Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth in glory. (Ps. 50:2)

#### **2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

*God's light seen clearly in the face of Christ*

#### **Mark 9:2-9**

*Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*