

Sharing Christ's Light with the World

February 5, 2023



Fifth Sunday after
Epiphany

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU – We would like to thank Reverend Brad Kerkow for leading us in our Bible Study and worship service. Pastor Kerkow serves the synod as the EMC (Evangelism Mission Counselor) for the home mission board.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – Let your light shine! Jesus tells us: You are...so be. You are the light of the world, so be light for the earth. You are the salt of the earth, so be salt for it.

MORNING PRAYER - Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP – CW, p.15

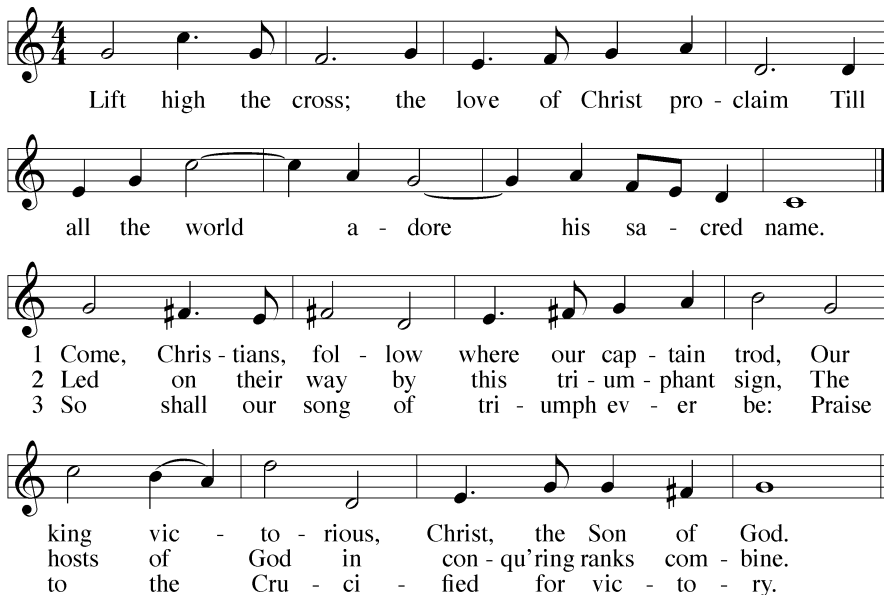


OPENING HYMN:

#579

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

****Pleaser stand for the last verse****



Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our cap-tain trod, Our
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign, The
3 So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise
king vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God.
hosts of God in con-qu'ring ranks com-bine.
to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-tor-ry.

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912, abr., altered by Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: CRUCIFER (10 10 10 10) Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

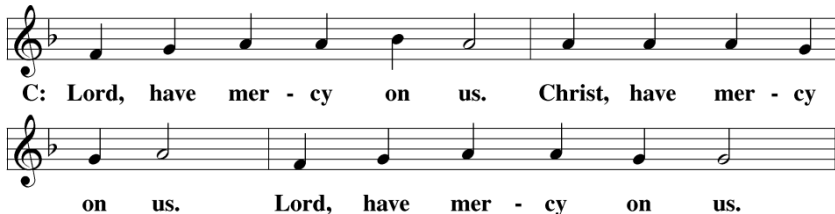
CONFESSON OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



C: Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

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

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 58: 5 – 9

Going through the motions of fasting did not make an acceptable fast. Crass hypocrisy thinks a mere outward form of faith is enough. Here God tells his people that the proof of repentance doesn't consist in the form of their fast but in the deeds of their faith.

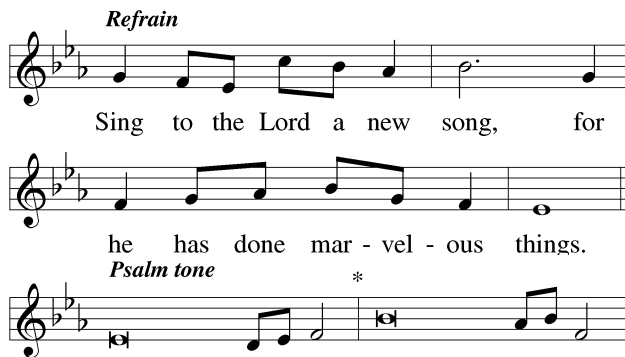
Is this the kind of fast that I would choose: a day when a person afflicts himself and bows his head like a reed and makes his bed on sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day to gain the Lord's favor?

On the contrary, isn't this the kind of fast that I would choose: to loosen the chains of wickedness, to tear apart the ropes of a yoke, to release the oppressed so they go free, and to tear every yoke to pieces? Isn't a true fast that you share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless and afflicted into a house? Yes, when you see a naked person, you are to cover him, and do not hide yourself from your own flesh and blood.

Then your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the Lord will follow you. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer.

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 111



Sing to the Lord a new song, for

he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Psalm tone

*

Refrain

Great are the works of the LORD;*
they are pondered by all who delight in them.
Glorious and majestic are his deeds,*
and his righteousness endures forever.
He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just;*
all his precepts are trustworthy.
He provided redemption for his people;*
he ordained his covenant forever.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;*
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 2: 1 – 5

Jesus commands us to be salt and light as a witness for the world, our deeds can never become a source of pride. Paul's ministry among the Corinthians was not based on eloquent words or superior wisdom—but only on Christ and him crucified.

As for me, brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with superior speech or wisdom in order to proclaim to you the testimony of God. For I had no intention of knowing anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not marked by persuasive words of human wisdom, but by a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia. (John 8:12)



****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5: 13 – 20

Jesus' sermon moves from the promises of the Beatitudes to his commands for the Christian life. The Christians blessed by Christ are called to be blessings to the world around us.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. In the same way let your light shine in people’s presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. Amen, I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. So whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY:

THY STRONG WORD

#280

Vs. 1–5

1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; Bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth
 5 Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry, Tongues thy

speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -
 mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats to shout the

light we thank thee While thine or - dered sea -
 thy sal - va - tion, Breathed thine own life - giv -
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes
 ev - er beam - eth All thy bright re - deem -
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak thy ho -

sons run. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise
 ing breath. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise
 con - fess. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise
 ing light. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise
 ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! May

to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia!
 the light which thou dost send Fill our songs with

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
 Used by permission.
 Tune: EBENEZER (87 87 D) Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944.

SERMON:**SERMON TEXT**

Brothers, I am making an appeal to you using the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I ask that you all express the same view and not have any divisions among you, but that you be joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For the news I heard about you, my brothers, from members of Chloe's household, is that there are rivalries among you. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized into the name of Paul? I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that I baptized you into my own name. (I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides them, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel—not with the wisdom used in speeches, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power.

VALUE CHRISTIAN UNITY**1 CORINTHIANS 1: 10 – 17****CREATE IN ME**

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING — Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

THE PRAYER FOR EPIPHANY

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

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.

*****Please Be Seated*****

CLOSING HYMN:

#596

LET ME BE YOURS FOREVER

1 Let me be yours for - ev - er, My faith - ful
 2 Lord Je - sus, my sal - va - tion, My light, my
 3 O gra - cious Ho - ly Spir - it, My com - fort -

God and Lord; Let me for - sake you nev - er
 life di - vine; My on - ly con - so - la - tion,
 er and guide, Grant that in Je - sus' mer - it

Nor wan - der from your Word. Lord, do not
 To you I all re - sign, For you have
 I al - ways may con - fide, Him to the

let me wa - ver But give me stead -
 dear - ly bought me With blood and bit -
 end con - fess - ing Whom I have known

fast - ness, And for such grace and fa - vor
 ter pain. Let me, since you have sought me,
 by faith. Give me your con - stant bless - ing

Your ho - ly name I'll bless.
 E - ter - nal life ob - tain.
 And grant a Chris - tian death.

Text: Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532–92, st. 1; *Gesangbuch*, Rudolstadt, 1688, st. 2-3; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
 Tune: ICH DANKE DIR, LIEBER HERRE (76 76 D) *Musika Teutsch*, Nürnberg, 1532, alt.

****Please Stand****

CLOSING PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



*****Please Be Seated*****

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Potluck – Sunday, February 12, is an opportunity to break bread and fellowship with one another. Is there someone who you don't know in the congregation? Here is some time to get to know them better. I have a challenge: learn something new about two congregation members. Please send the pastor an interesting tidbit about yourself you are willing to share but don't share with others—yet.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – What are your questions about the Bible? Do you know what the canon is? What are the foundational doctrines of the Bible? What should we know about the Bible? Bible Studies may have let you down in the past, too elementary, too basic, and too dull. So, I challenge you to give me a topic or even change the subject. Come and go as you wish! We start around 9:00 am; reading is always voluntary; bring your questions.

Marriage Retreat – Fellowship, forgiveness, friendship, and freedom! Finally, these are our topics. Do you already have the ideal perfect marriage? Then you will be our guest speaker; please email the pastor your information. If not, then this might be something for you. Here is also an opportunity to share this with a friend, coworker, or neighbor.

LMSG Spiritual Retreat – PTSD does not mean you are broken or sick; instead, you have extra challenges. Wouldn't it be great to have an opportunity to talk to Lutheran counselors and other Lutheran Vets going through the same challenges you are? Here is just that opportunity: June 1 – 4, 2023, LMSG is hosting a spiritual retreat for you. This event will be at Ft. Worden State Park in Washington. Watch for more information to come.

Midweek Bible Study – Need a midweek spiritual pick-me-up? We bring you that opportunity. You don't have to say a word; you can even sit in the comfort of your home and just listen. Or you can come to the Port's home and enjoy Penny Port's fabulous baking and refresh yourself in God's Word (that is a win-win.) Have you tried reading Romans on your own? This opportunity is yours to look at the foundation of our Christian doctrine. 6 pm Tuesday, January 31, from your couch on zoom or in person at the Port's home, 1923 NW Nickernut Court, Redmond.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

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