

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



February 5, 2023, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”

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Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion. Communion will be given two ways, you can either come up front and receive from Pastor, or Pastor can commune you, or you can pick up the convenient cup/wafer before the service and receive at your seat.

Reminder: We are videoing “live”.



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

Prelude

Joanne Richards

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell and Lighting of Candles

Hymn “Love, Whose Love in Humble Service”(vs. 1-3)

Red Worship Book 712

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
- 3 As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Confession and Forgiveness

L; Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Greeting

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

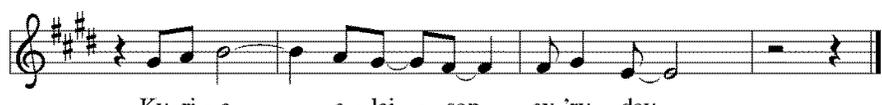
C: And also with you.

Kyrie

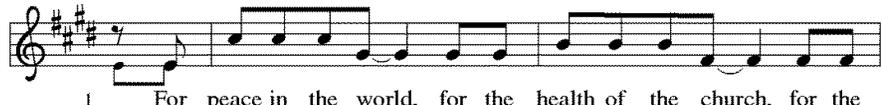
Refrain



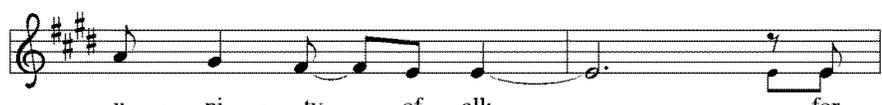
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



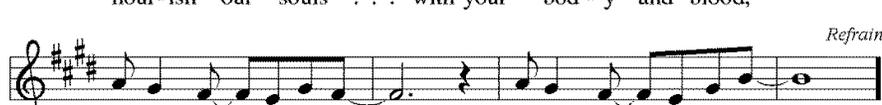
1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of Day

C: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will

not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

L: Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD

C: and have great delight in God's commandments!

L: Their descendants will be mighty in the land;

C: the generation of the upright will be blessed.

L: Wealth and riches will be in their house,

C: and their righteousness will last forever.

L: Light shines in the darkness for the upright;

C: the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. R

L: It is good for them to be generous in lending

C: and to manage their affairs with justice.

L: For they will never be shaken;

C: the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

L: They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;

C: their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

L: Their heart is established and will not shrink,

C: until they see their desire upon their enemies.

L: They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;

C: they will hold up their head with honor.

L: The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;

C: the desires of the wicked will perish. R

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

Second Reading: 1 2:1-12 (13-16)

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on

human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord (Spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 205

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, 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 does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

Red Worship Book pg. 206

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Children's Sermon

Elaine Garaghty

Sermon

Elaine Garaghty

Hymn “Gather Us In”

Red Worship Book 532

- 1** Here in this place the 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. 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.
- 2** We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3** Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that

are true.

- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away— here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. 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 bone.

Apostle's Creed

Red Worship Book pg. 105

C: 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.

Offering/Hymn

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

Red Worship Book 772

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still! Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere; let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep; and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road; nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

Offering Prayer

L: Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C: Amen

Prayers of Intercession

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 208

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

L: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C: Amen.

Hymn "We Are Marching In the Light"(vs. 1&4)

Red Worship Book 866

1. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

2. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.

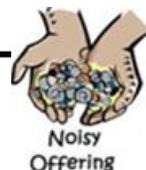
We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,) we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,) we are singing in the light of God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus

Thanks be to God.

the worship is ended ... let the service begin....



****The Noisy Offering" for February is for Pastor's Discretionary Fund, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.**

Next Week's Readings and Psalm

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm

Psalm 119:1-8

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel

Matthew 5:21-37

Thank you to Elaine Garaghty for preaching today!





Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Virgil Seegebarth, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Leigha Ness, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy's brother), and Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny).

Care facility member ~Dorothy Svendsen.

For Health Care Workers, Firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods. For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke.

Announcements/Calendar

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship with Elaine Garaghty preaching; Mindy at Youth Extravaganza.

Tues. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study; 5-6:30 pm Community Meal.

Wed. 11 am staff mtg.; 4:30 pm FiA choir practice; 5-7 pm Confirmation; 5-6:30 pm FiA; 6:30 pm Worship/Rick Dunkley preaching; 7-8 pm Youth Group..

Thurs. 8 am Men's Text Study; 9 am Quilting.

Sat. Noon-4 pm Ellie Nelson's 90th Birthday Party at Community Center; 8 pm AA mtg.

Sun. 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 9:30 am Worship/HC/Pastor Gregory Garmer preaching; 11-12:30 Valentine's Dinner.

Mon. 9 am Library; 4 pm Women's Roman's Bible Study.

Custodian Wanted!

First Lutheran Church is looking for a custodian.

This is a paid position. Qualifications: knowledge of cleaning equipment and products, dependable, have the physical ability to perform custodial duties and ability to work independently and be self-motivated.

If interested please contact the church office or Rick Dunkley, president of Church Council.



Giving statements are available to be picked up on the table in Narthex, upon request sent to you by mail or if you request by email Kathy will email them to you.

firstlcfinancialsecretary@scicable.com



Please join us for the Community Dinner on Tuesday, February 7th from 5-6:30 pm.



Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and concerns before and after my surgery. It was very much appreciated.

Virgil Seegebarth

Ellie Nelson's Family is having a 90th Birthday Party, Open House on Saturday, February 11th from Noon-4pm at the Hinckley Community Center. All are invited to celebrate this special occasion.



***Youth Mission Trip
Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser
Sunday, February 12th
11 am-12:30 pm***

Free Will Offering

Menu: Spaghetti, Alfredo, Salad, Bread and Dessert

Roses and fudge will be available.

Happy Valentine's

Out to Lunch Bunch- Thursday, February 16th
11:15 am meet at church to carpool to Bear Creek Tavern,
Cloverdale. Lunch at 11:30 am.



Correction from the February Newsletter:

In the "many, many gifts it said that our altar parament was donated by Mrs. Pat Almo's mother, it was Jack Almo's mother, who did all the Hardanger needlework and donated it. Sorry for any inconvenience.

**March Newsletter Deadline was not in Newsletter it will
be Monday, February 20th!**

