

EPIPHANY 5



Sunday, February 5, 2023

Welcome to United in Faith!

*Welcome to **all!** We hope you feel God's presence here.
May the Spirit guide you into faith now and in the days ahead.*

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.

For the benefit of all who are gathered here together for worship, we ask that you please silence all electronic devices before entering the sanctuary. Thank you.

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C = Congregation, P = Presiding Minister, A = Assisting Minister(s)
ELW page is for the **liturgy in front** of the cranberry book
ELW No. is for the **Hymns in back** of the cranberry book

PRELUDE

(Please Stand in Body or Spirit)

+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **C Amen.**

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. 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.

P 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.**

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In"

ELW Hymn #532

GREETING

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

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GLORY TO GOD

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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.

(Please Be Seated)

+ WORD +

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.

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

^{9a}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.

A Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9 [10] *(read responsively)*

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 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.]

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Robert Goldstein

HYMN OF THE DAY *"This Little Light of Mine"*

ELW Hymn #677

APOSTLES CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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.

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

("for whom else do we pray this morning...")

A We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified **C Amen.**

+ MEAL +

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C 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, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE *(sung)*

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.**

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **C Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P *Come and taste the joy of God!*

LAMB OF GOD

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COMMUNION

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOD'S TABLE OF GRACE.

(Please discard your plastic communion cup into the basket or empty tray.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

+ SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

C Amen.

SENDING SONG "We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba" ELW Hymn #866

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. C **Thanks be to God.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. C **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

We thank Rev. Robert Goldstein for leading us in worship today.

Today's Assisting Minister is Gayle Guzik

*For in person offering, please leave in offering plate at the sanctuary entrance or mail to:
6525 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL 60634.*

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the United in Faith Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting next Sunday, February 12, 2023
after our 10:00 am Sunday Worship Service



The artwork during Epiphany season was created by Linda Witte Henke (who created the textile art we displayed during Lent in 2020). Here's what she says about the artwork: "The visual for this Epiphany season is a stained-glass design featuring an Epiphany star that also references both a cross and a mariner's compass. The design invites us to look back to when, in kinship with the sages of old, we first followed the star that led us to encounter Emmanuel, God with Us. It also invites us to look forward as we continually discern how God is calling each of us to carry the Light of Christ into the world, proclaiming in word and deed the good news of God's redeeming love for all people."