

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Sunday Worship Booklet  
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 7, 2021 A.D.**



**Introduction**

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

PR=Pastor Ryan  
L=Lector  
C=Congregation

**PRELUDE**      *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*      setting by Charles Callahan

**OPENING HYMN**    *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*    **LBW #858**  
*Introduction by Johann Gottfried Walther*      **LOBE DEN HERREN**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

PR: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

*Silence for self-reflection and examination.*

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
Holy God,

**C: you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

PR: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,  
our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved.  
Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness,  
we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice  
and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

PR: 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. **C: 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.*

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALMODY: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

**R: *The LORD heals the brokenhearted.***

L: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

**C: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

L: The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**C: The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names. R**

L: Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

**C: The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

L: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp to our God,

**C: who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares  
rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains. R**

L: God provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

**C: God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner, R**

L: but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**     *I Love to Tell the Story*     **ELW #661**

**HANKEY**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: Saint 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.*

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **THE 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.**

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

PR: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ. Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth. Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need. Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you (*especially-see prayer list*).

Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here (*especially APPS and Bountiful Blessings*); for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings. Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God. Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

Heavenly Father, keep us vigilant as we follow all cautions to protect our health and well-being. We pray that those who have the virus will be restored to full health. We ask for protection for medical and support workers as they treat those infected. We pray that we will be generous, remembering that we share a common humanity and a responsibility for one another.

Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

Most Gracious Father, we thank you for answered prayers. We thank you for those who continue to diligently work to administer the vaccine for the CoronaVirus which continues to claim so many lives. We pray for the scientists and medical staff who believe the vaccine will be available to all of God's children in the near future. We pray that when distributed, the dispensing will be orderly, the vaccine will be effective and will have no adverse side effects.

Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

PR: My dearest Lord and Savior, though I am but a sinful servant, I approach you with confidence. I am truly sorry for having offended you by my sins because you are infinitely good. I have a great desire to receive you in Holy Communion and since I cannot be united with you in the Blessed Sacrament, I beseech you most earnestly to come to me at least spiritually and refresh my soul with the sweetness of your grace.

Come my Lord, My God, and my All, come to me and let me never again be separated from you by sin. I wish to become like you. Teach me your grace to practice meekness, humility, purity, charity and all the virtues of your most sacred heart.

Oh my Jesus, I consecrate to you my heart with all of its affections, my soul, with all its power and my body, with all its senses. In union with you I will live and labor and suffer to do the heavenly Father's will. I will ever be mindful of the presence of my God and strive to be perfect. Bless me in life and death that I may praise you forever and ever. **C: Amen.**

## TAKING FAITH HOME

### BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

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

PR: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**    *On Eagle's Wings*    **ELW #787**    **ON EAGLE'S WINGS**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POSTLUDE**

*Verse*

Thomas Tomkins

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.