

# Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

Hymn #412 "The People That in Darkness Sat"

The people that in darkness sat  
A glorious light have seen;  
The light has shined on them who long  
In shades of death have been,  
In shades of death have been.

To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,  
The gath'ring nations come;  
They joy as when the reapers bear  
Their harvest treasures home,  
Their harvest treasures home.

To us a Child of hope is born,  
To us a Son is giv'n,  
And on His shoulder ever rests  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,  
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
The Everlasting Lord,  
The Wonderful, the Counselor,  
The God by all adored,  
The God by all adored.

His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

△ Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P:** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 147:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;  
**for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
**He gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted  
**and binds up their wounds.**

<sup>4</sup>He determines the number of the stars;  
**He gives to all of them their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;  
**His understanding is beyond measure.**

<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the humble;  
**He casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
**make melody to our God on the lyre!**

<sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds;  
**He prepares rain for the earth;**  
**He makes grass grow on the hills.**

<sup>9</sup>He gives to the beasts their food,  
**and to the young ravens that cry.**

<sup>10</sup>His delight is not in the strength of the horse,  
**nor His pleasure in the legs of a man,**

<sup>11</sup>but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,  
**in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Do you not know? Do you not hear? 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 dwell in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong 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 to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup>Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but they 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.

**L: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

recited by all

Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

**Praise the LORD, all nations!**

**Extol him, all peoples!**

**For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

## Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, 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 not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

<sup>24</sup>Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup>Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup>So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

**L: This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

**P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.**

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. <sup>31</sup>And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered together at the door. <sup>34</sup>And he healed 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>And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, <sup>37</sup>and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." <sup>38</sup>And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn #573** "Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee" *sung to: "Glorious Things of You are Spoken"*

Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;  
That, I know, could never be;  
For this heart would still refuse Thee  
Had Thy grace not chosen me.  
Thou hast from the sin that stained me  
Washed and cleansed and set me free  
And unto this end ordained me,  
That I ever live to Thee.

It was grace in Christ that called me,  
Taught my darkened heart and mind;  
Else the world had yet enthralled me,  
To Thy heav'nly glories blind.  
Now I worship none above Thee;  
For Thy grace alone I thirst,  
Knowing well that, if I love Thee,  
Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

△ Praise the God of all creation;  
Praise the Father's boundless love.  
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,  
Priest and King enthroned above.  
Praise the Spirit of salvation,  
Him by whom our spirits live.  
Undivided adoration  
To the great Jehovah give.

Text: Public domain

**Sermon**

**Offering**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

## Prayer of the Church

**P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For our preschool, its staff, students, and families – both present and past; that those who teach and those who learn would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant them skill and integrity in the performance of their responsibilities and valued service through their vocations, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For those who are sick, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** For our other needs – hear us Lord (*we offer our congregation's petitions*) . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

**P:** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers as we pray in the name of Jesus and with the prayer He gave us:

## Lord's Prayer

Lutheran Service Book, page 162

Matthew 6:9-13

**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.**

## Hymn "Father of the Fatherless"

*tune: The Solid Rock*

Your perfect plan for all of us  
Was to be family ever blest.  
But sin and selfishness destroy  
A family's peace and love and joy.

**REFRAIN:** *O Father of the fatherless  
We are Your children ever blest,  
We are Your children ever blest.*

You sent Your One and Only Son  
To reconcile all whom You love.  
He seeks the lost and lonely sheep,  
To gather in His arms to keep. **REFRAIN**

Christ Jesus came to seek the lost  
To deal with sin and pay its cost.  
And through His sacrifice of love,  
We have a Father up above. **REFRAIN**

We pray dear Lord for those alone  
We ask You to provide a home.  
One safely here, upon the earth,  
And one with You through second birth. **REFRAIN**

We are adopted by our God:  
We have a Father up above;  
Our Brother is His Only Son,  
With Spirit blest – the Three-in-One. **REFRAIN**

TEXT: Mark E. Adams, used by permission

## THE BLESSING OF ZACHARY & SARAH GAULKE AS ADOPTING PARENTS

**P:** People of God in Christ Jesus, Zach and Sarah will be traveling to Bulgaria to meet the child with whom they have been matched for adoption. Their family by blood and their family by faith share in their joy and seek to encourage them during this time of excitement and anxiety. All of us look to the Lord and His Word for blessing, encouragement and peace, and seek His aid with our prayers.

The great Psalmist, King David wrote in Psalm 68:

**P:** Sing to God, sing praises to His name;

**C: lift up a song to Him Who rides through the deserts;**

**P:** His name is the LORD;

**C: exult before Him!**

**P:** Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in His holy habitation.

**C: God settles the solitary in a home.**

**P:** We pray . . .

### FOR THE FAMILY OF FAITH

*Pastor Adams*

### FOR THANKSGIVING FOR THE PROCESS THAT HAS LED TO A MATCH

*Jan Schulz*

### FOR ZACH AND SARAH'S TRAVEL

*Caleb, Emily, Ethan, & Anna Adams*

### FOR ZACH AND SARAH AS PARENTS

*Mike & Laura Gaulke*

### FOR THE CHILD

*Tess & Mary Adams*

### FOR COMPATIBILITY WITH THE CHILD

*David, Rebekah, Abigail, Joshua & Elizabeth Picker*

### FOR THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THE ADOPTION TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY

*John Liebe*

**P:** Zach and Sarah we send you to Bulgaria with the following Word of the Lord and the blessing of God's people:

**P:** I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from?

**C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

**P:** He will not let your foot slip —

**C: He Who watches over you will not slumber;**

**P:** indeed, He Who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

**C: The LORD watches over you — the LORD is your shade at your right hand;**

**P:** the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

**C: The LORD will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life;**

**P:** the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

**P:** We send you away with the blessing of your family and this congregation, confident that the Lord your God goes with you.

**C: Go then in peace and joy.**

**P:** The Almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the Son ✠, and the Holy Spirit go with you, bless and strengthen you, now and always – wherever He may lead you!

**C: Amen**

**Hymn #922** “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing,  
Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;  
You are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river  
I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing—  
You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,  
What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story;  
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven,  
At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving,  
Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you;  
Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished,  
Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you  
And give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you  
And give you peace:

I the Lord will be your Father,  
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you  
And give you peace.

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