



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 4, 2024

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We light this candle as a sign that Christ has come and Christ will come again. As the light pushes back darkness let us walk with, learn from, and worship Jesus Christ.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

All: The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers the exiles. He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds.

Liturgist: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

All: Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.
Psalm 147:1-7 adapted

* **All Singing: 575 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 593 "Lord Most High"**

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: The Lord covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

All: His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the power of human legs;

Liturgist: the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.
Psalm 147:9-11 adapted

Silent Confession and Reflection

Choir: “Blest are They Whose Spirit Long” Handel/Hopson

Blessed are they whose spirit long;
Whose trust is in the Lord;
On whose lips is praise unending.
They shall mount up like eagles, lofty on high.
They, too, shall walk and not be weary.

Liturgist: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

All: And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Liturgist: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrated his own love for us in this:

All: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Liturgist: Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him. For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

All: Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-2, 6-11

* **All Singing: 675 “By Grace We Have Been Saved”**
Singing verses 1, 2, 3, and 5

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Lord God, help us turn our hearts to you and hear what you will speak, for you speak peace to your people through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 85:8 adapted

Scripture: John 11:17-37

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Telling Stories in the Dark

* **All Singing: 446 “We Cannot Measure How You Heal”**

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Luke Society

Choir: “He Will Hold Me Fast”

Merker/Koerts

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold, through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last

* **All Singing: 965 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

Sending

* BENEDICTION

* **All Singing: 943 “God Be with you Till We Meet Again”**
Singing verses 1, 3, and 4

Postlude: “Lord of the Dance”

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Worship Leaders

Organist: Dora Diephouse
Vocalist: Ginny Carpenter
Choir Director: David Baar
Pianist/Accompanist: Cameron Jones
Cellist: Emily Mantel
Preacher: Jeff Munroe
Minister: Roger Nelson

Acolyte: Tyler Hughes
Liturgist: Jim Sluis
Prayer: Glenn Medema

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