+ Holy Cross Lutheran Church +

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 23, 2021

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

At Easter, on the road to Emmaus, the Lord Jesus taught us how all the Scriptures ultimately point to Him and His ministry of salvation. Today, we hear the same claim at the beginning of His ministry. Quoting Isaiah 61, He tells His hometown neighbors, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). They were impressed. But only for a short moment. Not everyone will listen to the Word of God until it first inspires repentance over sin. Only when God gets us to face up to our real need, the forgiveness of sins, does the Spirit of God work true faith in the heart that results in praise of God who saves us. The world wants only to cover up and does not like hearing God call what we are doing and what we are sin. In a strange way, however, the Christian actually likes getting honest and facing up to sin, confessing it in order to receive God's gift of forgiveness and new life. As one Body in Christ, we respond with one voice in praise to God.

658 Preserve Your Word, O Savior



Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

 \mathbf{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.
- **P** 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,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Service of the Word

Introit

2

P You will arise and have pity on | Zion;*
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.

Let this be recorded for a genera- | tion to come,*
so that a people yet to be created may | praise the LORD:

that he looked down from his | holy height;*
from heaven the LORD looked | at the earth,

to hear the groans of the | prisoners,* to set free those who were | doomed to die,

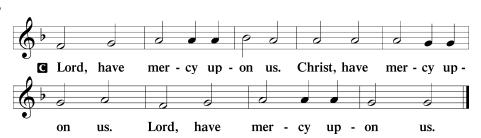
- P that they may declare in Zion the name | of the LORD,* and in Jerusa- | lem his praise,
- when peoples gather to- | gether,* and kingdoms, to wor- | ship the LORD.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

You will arise and have pity on | Zion;*
it is the time to favor her; the appointed | time has come.

Kyrie



Psalm 102:18–22; antiphon: v. 13

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 187



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Old Testament Reading is from Nehemiah, chapter 8.

¹ All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . .

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . .

⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

P The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Luke 4:16–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



P ¹⁶[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

18"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,

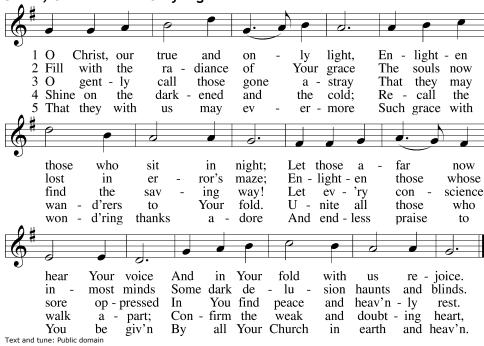
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come 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.

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

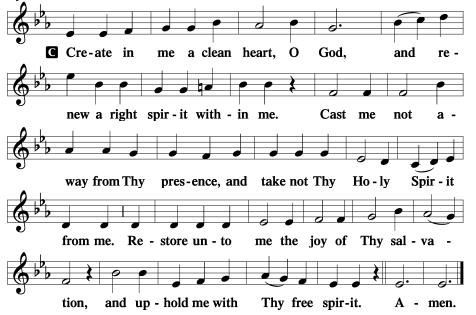


Sermon Manifested in the Word

Offering

Stand

Offertory LSB 192



Prayer of the Church

- **P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- In thanksgiving to the Lord of Zion, who has arisen and shown pity to our fallen world, setting us free from our sin and death; in thanksgiving for Christ, in whom the appointed time of favor has come for all people; and for the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God, that Christ's name would be declared among all peoples and His grace received with delight in every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

- For eagerness to hear the Word of God with understanding, as in the days of Ezra the priest, that with attentive ears we may receive it, our days be sanctified by it and His commandments be put into practice among us, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For harmony in the Christian Church, arranged as members of one body in Christ Jesus, that we may be free of jealousy or contempt toward our fellow Christians, bestow honor on weaker brothers, suffer and rejoice together, and serve in harmony as those baptized in one Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P For all families and homes, that one generation may tell to the next the wonderful works of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those who govern our communities and country, that they would be given wisdom and courage to lead; that they would follow God's will rather than man's whims; and that our Father would grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the comfort of those who mourn and the care of those who need healing, [especially ______,] that the Great Physician would mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all who need His compassion, 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, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Lord's Prayer LSB 196

P 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.

- **G** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus LSB 202

- **P** Bless we the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction LSB 202

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C Amen.

401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born



- Lord, once You came to earth's domain
 And, we believe, shall come again;
 Be with us on the battlefield,
 From ev'ry harm Your people shield.
- △ 6 To You, O Lord, all glory be For this Your blest epiphany;
 To God, whom all His hosts adore,
 And Holy Spirit evermore.

 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** next meets Wednesdays at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is Feb 13 at 8am.

January has a **Fifth Sunday!** Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by **Jan 23**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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