

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 7, 2021
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC

Preservice Music/Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

Gathering Song #787 “On Eagle's Wings”

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

- 2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*
- 3 You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain*
- 4 For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For this holy house, for houses everywhere, and for all in these places
who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
To God be glory forever! To God be glory forever!
Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

Prayer of the Day

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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is the One 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 live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when God blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

The One who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because the LORD is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
The LORD does not faint or grow weary;
the LORD'S understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹The LORD gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those 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.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading I Corinthians 9:16-23

⁶If 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! ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸What 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.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To 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. ²¹To 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. ²²To 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. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Gospel verse

**Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel Mark 1:29-39 *Glory to you, O Lord.*

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured 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.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #617 "We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

We Come to You for Healing, Lord



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

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Apostles' Creed

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

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.*

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. **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 rather than seek to dominate or exploit them, let us pray. **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. **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 Ed who is in hospital and for Gwen who can only watch and wait, for Dorothy and Ingrid,, for Merv and Marlene, Erika and Rikki, Pam and Bud, Marianne and Tory, Sharon and Phil, Albert and Randi, Larry and Kathy and the family and friends of Michael Rodgers, and those we name now in silence or aloud. . .*) let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for Michael and Karsten and all the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labours, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace/Offering/Offertory

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 Saviour 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 Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) Prayer over the gifts of field and vine

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer (sung)

**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.**

Fraction The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation Taste and see that our God is good.

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the word; grant us your peace.**

Sharing of the Meal *Music is played during the distribution*

Prayer after the Meal

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood
of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away
as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

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

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. **Amen.**

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


Sending Song #612 “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain




Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen
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Dismissal
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Something to ponder from the “Gospel Message” in **Sundays and Seasons***

Some years ago, theologian Douglas John Hall wrote a provocative book, *Waiting for Gospel*. Its cover pictures an individual standing alone in an open field, looking down, waiting. The book presents a critique and reminder for the church: whole cities, neighboring towns, are crowding doors, searching deserted places for good news, for gospel. But is the church sharing the gospel?

Isn't someone always selling snake-oil solutions for shriveled hearts, beachfront on a desert seashore, joy from a pill? What are we to believe? Who are we to listen to? When pandemic wobbles the globe, seas rise and economies fall, depressions blossom and hopes wither; when people starve in the shadow of mountains of rotting food, artificial intelligence baits kitchen table wisdom, virtual relationships land knockout blows to authentic community, and “mass” is the prefix to “incarceration,” “migration,” and “destruction”—which door are we to crowd? Where are we to search?

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Good news draws a crowd; the gospel is found in Jesus!