

Service of Holy Communion

January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Light of the World" Matt Redman

One Voice

LAMENTATION

Introduction:

2020 was a year of unexpected change. The pandemic brought social restrictions that separated us more than usual, and led to the loss – whether permanent or temporary – of beloved aspects of our lives. Great and sustained loss bids us to lament, to give voice to our hurts and griefs. During the season of Epiphany, worship will open with lamentation and response, rather than confession and forgiveness.

LAMENTS AND RESPONSE

Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our hearts to you. Look and see what we have suffered. When will this hardship come to an end? Hear us as we cry:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

Loving God, we cry to you in the depths of our despair, in the chaos of our crisis, in the anguish of our agony.*

How long, O Lord, how long?

We are weary and worn, broken, beaten, and hungry for justice, relief, healing, and love.*

How long, O Lord, how long?

Hear us, Lord, as we place our sorrows and griefs before you; respond to us with your mercy and tender care.

(silence for reflection)

We lament today the loss of civility, the growth of hostility and anger during this season. We grieve how disagreement and dissent have been expressed with untruths and violence. We grieve that our nation's image has been tarnished by needless conflict and destruction, and how we label one another "stupid," or "evil." Look upon your people with compassion, Holy God, and ease our suffering. Give us the promise of new life, the hope of better days to come. Protect and uphold all those who are working to sustain life, bring healing, and to serve our nation, and to end this pandemic.

Hear us, O God, for the sake of Jesus, who was crucified and has risen from the dead. Amen.

**Adapted from Prayer by Jenna Perinne*

GATHERING SONG *“Blessed Be Your Name”*

Verse 1

Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2

Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre-Chorus

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in Lord
Still I will say

Chorus

Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3

Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4

Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

(Repeat Pre Chorus & Chorus)

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away

My heart will choose to say
 Lord blessed be Your name
 (twice)

Chorus

CCLI Song # 3798438
 Beth Redman | Matt Redman
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”*

Verse

Lord I lift Your name on high
 Lord I love to sing Your praises
 I'm so glad You're in my life
 I'm so glad You came to save us

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
 To show the way
 From the earth to the cross
 My debt to pay
 From the cross to the grave
 From the grave to the sky
 Lord I lift Your name on high

Repeat

Verse

Chorus

Chorus

CCLI SONG # 117947
RICK FOUNDS
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, **most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING: *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18*

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.**

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Sing Alleluia"

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.

Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. (*repeat*)

GOSPEL READING: John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus.

Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The papal emissary looks up sharply from the letter he is reading. Fixing his gaze on the representative from the Spanish government, he says, “Are you telling me this slaughter was necessary?” It is the mid-1700s, in South America, and hundreds of indigenous peoples living in Christian missions, as well as their priests, have been massacred by Spanish forces.

The Spanish representative says, “Given the arrangement we’ve agreed upon, one you endorsed, then, yes. It was necessary.”

The papal emissary had endorsed the transfer of lands from Spanish to Portuguese control, and in the process, the dismantling of several, large missions in the territory. But not mass killings.

The emissary goes to look out a window. Noting his distress, the Portuguese representative says, “You had no choice, your eminence. We must live in the world. The world is thus.”

The emissary, looking back, replies, “Thus have we made the world.” Then more quietly, “Thus have I made it.”

This final scene from the movie *The Mission* haunts me. Power, wealth, greed, and self-interest prompted the Spanish and Portuguese governments to act ruthlessly against native peoples, either enslaving or killing them. The papal emissary, a priest of high standing, was caught between his admiration for what the priests and the native peoples had accomplished in the missions, and his orders to shut those missions down. He never meant for there to be a slaughter, yet in its aftermath, he faced his own part in the atrocity. “Thus is the world? No, thus have we made the world. Thus have I made it.” / /

Thousands of our fellow citizens stormed the capitol building in Washington DC last Wednesday, destroying property, threatening to harm – even hang – elected officials, while calling themselves patriots. The rest of the nation watched in horror, shocked that the capitol was breached so easily, frightened at how vulnerable our system of government is to insurrection, to violent overthrow.

The police response, too, was puzzling – none of the riot gear, tear gas, rubber bullets, and hundreds of arrests as at Black Lives Matter protests. White skinned rioters were treated far more gently than dark-skinned protestors have been – the very definition of “white privilege.”

I struggle to know how to respond to things like the attack on the capitol. Initially, I want to take a baseball bat to everyone who dared assault our government. I don’t even support the death penalty, yet the first words out of my mouth were, “They should all be hanged.” There has to be some response, not just from elected officials, but from us – you and me. Not a violent one, a hate-filled one – that would negate the gospel of Jesus. So I’m searching for a better response, one that is honest, straight-forward, and in keeping with the way of Jesus.

My preference would be to stay quiet, keep my thoughts to myself, not risk saying anything that might upset someone. But I don’t want to be the papal emissary – caught in the middle, trying to do her best, but finally concluding, “Thus have we made the world. Thus have I made it.”

This isn’t over yet, the lawlessness, the violence, the terrible divide among our people. No doubt, more unrest is coming. To be clear – there are dangerous extremists on both the left and the right, and they will not easily be calmed. Or disarmed. We need to be prepared for the next violent episode that will occur. What will we say? What will we do?

A large part of the problem is that the people of our country cannot agree on what is true and what is false. Which makes it hard to talk with one another, to reason with each

other. We lack a common perspective from which to begin. How, then, do you and I find our way through the lies, the shaded and slanted partial-truths, to arrive at what might, actually be truth? How do we live today as responsible citizens of our nation, and faithful followers of Jesus?

I keep thinking about truth. I want to hold onto what is true, and reject what is false or grossly exaggerated. But the only truth I can absolutely identify these days is Jesus and the gospel message. Everything else I read or hear prompts me ask, "Is this the whole truth? It affirms my experience, supports how I understand the world; but does that mean it's true?"

I have one truth to give you today, and that is Jesus. That doesn't directly answer your questions, or give you a clear course of action to follow. It gives you and me someone to know, someone to listen to, to imitate, to call on for help, and to **believe** more – much more – than we believe *anything* in the news.

Look at today's gospel reading. It's an ordinary day in an unknown town. Jesus sees Philip and says 'follow me.' Philip finds his friend, Nathanael, and the two of them go to be with Jesus. The verses just before today's assigned reading, showed Jesus inviting Andrew and another person to spend the evening with him. Andrew found his brother, Peter, and they went to him.

It's just another day and people are following Jesus; they don't know much about him yet, they aren't perfect followers, they aren't extraordinary individuals. Yet gradually, they learn to leave everything else behind for Jesus and his way. His way of loving God and loving neighbor; his way of healing the sick, lifting up the lowly, feeding the hungry; his way of embodying God's righteousness, God's mercy, God's urgent call to live a new way.

We have to live in the world, and the world right now is confused, furious, and vengeful; a powder keg set to explode. Not too different from the world in Jesus' day. What do we do? Like Philip and Nathanael, Andrew and Peter, we leave our other loyalties behind and devote ourselves to being-with, being *like*, Jesus.

In a mixed-up, blood-thirsty world, this is the truth we follow: Jesus' way of love – enduring, purposeful love – and self-sacrifice for the sake of sinners. If we don't know anything else, we know that is who we are. We are not warriors, we are people of love; we are not enemies of each other but brothers and sisters in Christ. The world might be going crazy, but we're going to remain with Jesus – loving God with all our heart, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

You and I cannot make the world new, no matter what we do. But Jesus is constantly making the world new: turning despair into hope, repairing what is broken, diffusing hatred with determined, clear-minded love, bringing life out of death.

When you don't know what to do, open your Bible and open your heart. See who Jesus is. Watch what his disciples and apostles do. Ruminates on those things. Beg God to strengthen your faithfulness. And look for the coming of a new day, a blessed day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Here I Am, Lord"*

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church let us confess our faith.

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 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 THE PEOPLE

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 body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.** For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the cares and thanks we raise to you now...

Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, 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.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. Your generosity not only sustains this congregation's work, but also supports the larger Lutheran Church, including hospital chaplains and campus pastors at colleges and universities. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, please see our website: www.skicsa.org

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise him, all creatures here below;
 praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

Amen.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

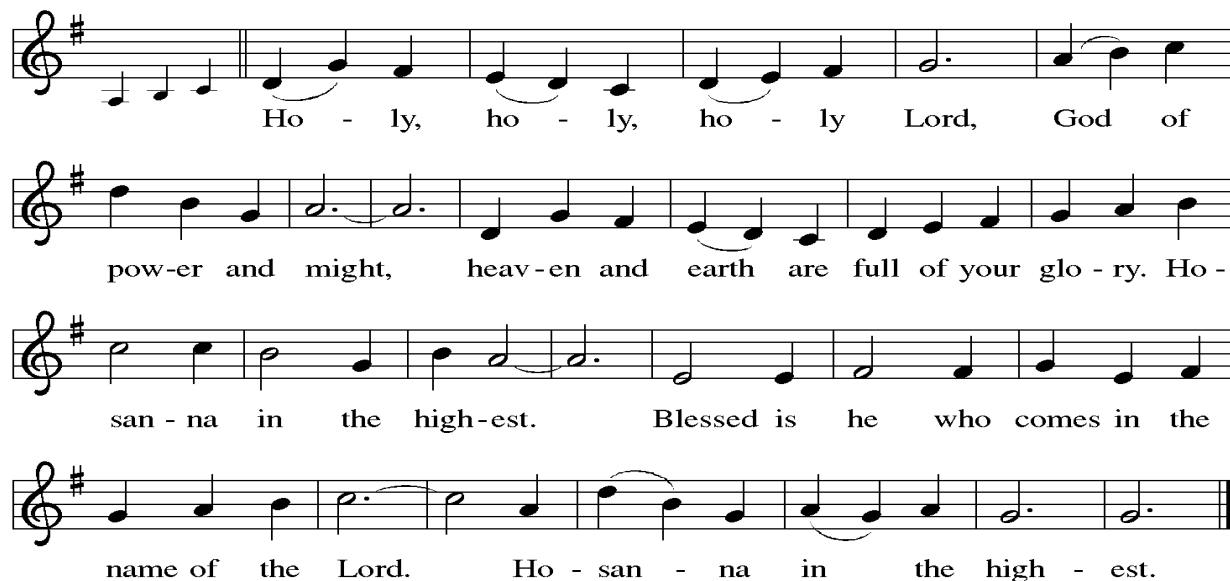
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE SUNDAYS IN EPIPHANY

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
 al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
 By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;
 in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,
 and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.
 And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy"


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

God who created the heaven and the earth, who promised to bless all nations through Abraham and Sarah, and brought Israel safely through the sea, we gather at the table with our Lord, Jesus, with thankful hearts, remembering...

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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. *(please consume the bread)*

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. *(please drink from the cup)*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We need someone with basic bookkeeping experience who can learn the system here at the church and be a backup for our financial administrator, Kathy. Barbara Eickman was her backup until Barbara's untimely death late last year.

Please stay for the Congregational meeting immediately following worship today. You can join either here on Facebook live, or by Zoom if you've let me know you need the Zoom link. I don't think I can send it out now.

Next Sunday there will be a Council Retreat, on Zoom, from 3 to 5 pm. All Council members are expected to be present.

The yearend report has not been compiled yet. It will be finished and sent out to you soon.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✚ keep you in peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *"This Little Light of Mine"*

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CHIMES

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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