

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 7, 2021
Service of Holy Communion**

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Jesus Christ, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Gather Us In!"

#532

1. **Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

2. **We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to be the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**
3. **Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**
4. **Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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.

EPIPHANY LITANY

Arise, shine, inheritors of God's light,
bearers of Christ's light to our darkened world.

**The light of God has come into our world,
and nations will come to its brightness.**

Arise, shine, privileged ones who live in the light of Christ.

Bow before God not in shame but in awe.

**All is visible in Christ's eternal light,
for in us God's light never goes out.**

Arise, shine. In Christ, God's light has been revealed to us.
It reaches across time and space.

We have come to see. We have come to follow.

Arise, shine. In Christ, God's light has been revealed to all people.

God's glory has been unveiled in all the earth.

May we go and tell. May we go and share God's light with our needy world.

Come and see:

the light of God has come into our world to proclaim God's justice and love. It has overcome the darkness and brought new life.

Come and follow:

Christ our king has redeemed our world.

He draws us into a loving family from every tribe and family and culture.

Go and tell.

The Spirit has equipped us for service:

to love our neighbors and

to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth.

Come and see, come and follow, go and tell.

In God's Son the nations of the earth will put their hope.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have 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? 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 live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. 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"? 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. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

**The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.

**He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

**The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.

**He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**

He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.

**His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;**

but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.**

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If 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! For 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. What 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. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 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 I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To 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. To 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-44

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

#712

1. **Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**
2. **Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**
3. **As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**
4. **Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show; hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give, that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

APOSTLE'S 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 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.

Petitions end: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLETALK: SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

#461

1. **All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here is truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
2. **All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**
3. **All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

TABLE BLESSING

At the conclusion: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion: Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word"

#663

1. **Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator's call,
heaven's gifts extend to all.**
2. **Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
who, to save our human race
and to pay rebellion's price,
gave himself as sacrifice.**

3. **Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
now to guide us on to heav'n,
strong and holy, just and true,
working both to will and do.**
4. **Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gath'ring nations all
see your light and heed your call.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Go and tell.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE