**5th Sunday after epiphany- febraury 4 2024, zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**GATHERING SONG*We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (ELW 617)**

1 We come to you for healing, Lord,  
of body, mind, and soul,  
and pray that by your Spirit's touch  
we may again be whole.  
  
2 As once you walked through ancient streets  
and reached toward those in pain,  
come, risen Christ, among us still  
with pow'r to heal again.  
  
3 You touch us through physicians' skills,  
through nurses' gifts of care,  
and through the love of faithful friends  
who lift our lives in prayer.  
  
4 When nights are long with wakefulness,  
through days when strength runs low,  
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,  
your calming peace to know.  
  
5 We come to you, O loving Lord,  
in our distress and pain,  
in trust that through our nights and days  
your grace will heal, sustain.

**announcements**

Welcome to worship on this 5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 4, 2024.

It is a busy day at Zion, as our ACM takes place after our potluck lunch. Please stay and join in on the decision making of the church. If there is something you would like to see different in your church, it is important for your voice to be heard.

February is Black History Month, throughout the month I will be sharing prayers and poems and stories from the black community. The ELCIC and the Racial Justice Committee to which your former Pastor Joanna Miller belongs has made these available to congregations.

I will be leaving for the Bishop’s retreat in Niagara Falls this afternoon and return late Wednesday afternoon. If any pastoral emergencies arise please call my cell. I will return your call as soon I am able.

Pancake supper February 13.

**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 184)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

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 Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

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 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; 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 he 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?  
 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.  
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.  
 He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.  
 29He 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.**

**PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**

1Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!  
 2**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem and gathers the exiles of Israel.**  
 3The Lord heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.  
 4**The Lord counts the number of the stars** **and calls them all by their names.**  
 5Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to God’s wisdom.  
 6**The Lord lifts up the lowly but casts the wicked to the ground.**  
 7Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,  
 8**who covers the heavens with clouds** **and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**  
 9God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.  
 10**God is not impressed by the might of a horse and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**  
 11but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God’s steadfast love.

**20c| Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul’s ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

16If 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 ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

29As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] 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 sunset, 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 neighboring 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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 189)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)**

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.  
  
2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.  
  
3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

**apostles CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**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**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are broken- hearted and strengthen the weak and all in need *especially* Chris, Vivian, Felix, Elizabeth, Zoli, Nick, Jill, our members in long term care Robert, Bea, Evelyn and Rob, and those we name either out loud or in the silence of our hearts. . God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of courage and love, We pray for all victims of racism and discrimination who continue to suffer oppression and hate simply because of the colour of their skin. Give us the courage to be voices against oppression. Open our hearts to share the transforming powers of the gospel to all who suffer in our midst but out of our sight. Help us to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another’s pleasure or need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 885)**

**BLESSING OF THE CANDLES**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded usto show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Accept these candles which we offer in thanksgiving; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 190)**

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 Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 (ELW p. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

On the night before his death, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)- *Lamb of God***

**COMMUNION HYMNS- #612, 838,**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Giver of every gift, Christ’s body is our food, and we are Christ’s body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,

☩ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)**

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!  
  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?  
  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.  
  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**Thanks be to God.**

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