

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 6, 2022

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FALLS CHURCH, VA



PRELUDE

God Himself is Present
Setting: Stephen Folkemer

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN (Stand) #907

God Himself is Present

- 1 God Himself is present:
Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
All within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone
On His throne
Is our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever!
- 2 God Himself is present:
Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
"Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear
To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
That Your Church now raises.
- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels,
Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will
Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Silence for reflection)

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

KYRIE

p. 204

In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation; and for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise; and for the well-being of the whole church of God in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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- 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.
- 2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord,
**keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace,
we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON (Be seated)

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 138 (Read responsively)

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
**I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.**

On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.
**All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.
**For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
**The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say "Amen" to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE (Stand)

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**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Luke 5:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 5th chapter
Glory to You, O Lord.

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were

washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus. Amen. Dear friends in Christ:

Born into wealth and privilege he lived the lifestyle of the rich and famous – partying hard and exhibiting a manner of selfish ease. He haunted the low-life dives of the city, kept company with disreputable characters, and lived with a woman he had no intention of marrying, with whom he had a son. All this to the great dismay of his mother, an upstanding Christian. To her and to all, he was an embarrassment.

Then one day, this entitled young man had a change of heart. Over the years he'd heard the Christian message from his mother and although it had never stuck, on this particular day, feeling troubled by the emptiness of his life, he found himself sitting in the garden of the family estate with a Bible in his hands.

The young man opened the Bible and read these words: "Let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires" (Romans 13:13-14).

Years later, the man wrote about how he felt that day, saying: "Instantly, it was as if the light of peace was poured into my heart, and all the gloom of doubt vanished away."

Soon after, the dissolute young man surprised his friends by training for the priesthood. Ultimately, he became not only a priest, but a bishop.

Today this one-time playboy from the fourth century is known as a saint, for his writings inspired the church of his day and helped lead to its great growth. St. Augustine was perhaps as unlikely a candidate for sainthood as any you'll find. Yet he listened to the call of God. And God turned his life from one of waste to one of good.

God has captured the hearts of many other unlikely saints as well. Scan the pages of a Bible or a book of church history and you'll find all sorts of flawed people who were touched by God's spirit ... men and women who heard God's call and responded.

Such a person wrote today's second lesson. We know him as Paul, but he wasn't always called by that name. So compelling was his call to discipleship that he dropped his old name of Saul and went by the name that better signified his new life.

Today's reading by Paul doesn't reveal anything about his past. But next week's does. In that reading we will hear Paul say that Christ appeared to him: "as to one untimely born."

That phrase - "untimely born" - is a euphemism. Literally it translates "as one aborted." Paul compared himself to an aborted or miscarried fetus in order to recognize the fact that he was not a legitimate son of the gospel,

for in his former life he rejected Christ – and not just out of indifference as Augustine did but as a persecutor of Christ’s message.

Paul, too, was a very unlikely saint. And yet Jesus called him – on the Damascus Road – plucking him out of his hate-filled life and transporting him into the light of the gospel. “But by the grace of God, I am what I am,” said Paul. Paul knew that his calling and transformation were not accomplished by his own merits, but by the power of the living Lord.

And then there’s the prophet Isaiah. We don’t know nearly as much about his life as we do about Paul’s. But today’s lesson from his prophecy hints at the inner turmoil this troubled believer felt.

In the reading, Isaiah appears to be in the temple — or at least he sees himself there. And while he is there, he has a vision. He sees the Lord himself, enthroned on high, a figure so immense that the hem of his robe touches the temple walls. Isaiah also sees angels — dozens of them, cherubim and seraphim — soaring on their six wings around the throne of God. The walls shake with their voices and the cavernous hall is filled with smoke.

Isaiah is terrified. He says: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips.” Isaiah is fearful because he is standing in God’s presence – a presence so holy no sinful mortal can survive it. “My eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” he says. Isaiah is preparing to die.

Then one of the seraphim flies over to him, holding in a pair of tongs a live coal from the sacrificial fire. The angel touches it to Isaiah’s mouth and tells him that his sins have been blotted out.

And this tells us that Isaiah will survive the Lord’s presence. For God, through this act of forgiveness, now considers him clean and pure – a saint, if you will. The Lord was giving him a fresh new start.

But that wasn’t all. Isaiah then hears the thundering voice of the Lord: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And here God extends his call – doing it as a challenge, but also as a request.

“Here am I,” Isaiah responds. He has heard the call of God and been moved by God’s merciful atoning for his sins. How can he refuse after such a blessing? “Send me!” he says.

Isaiah was a man of unclean lips, dwelling among a people of unclean lips. Again, a most unlikely candidate for the Lord’s work. But God chose him. God chose him to deliver his sacred messages to his people. And when God chooses, one can be confident of God’s blessing.

Isaiah, Paul, Augustine... the scriptures and the pages of history are full of stories of men and women who struggled with sin and were in no way deserving to carry God’s holy messages to his people, and yet God called them anyway.

What these stories tell us is that, in the final analysis, there is only one requirement for discipleship: a willingness to submit to God’s call. You don’t have to be smart, strong, healthy, or even particularly religious. You can be flawed, damaged and still struggling. All you need to do is listen when God calls, and then get up and do what’s needed.

Today’s Gospel reading gives yet another example. In it we hear Luke’s version of Jesus calling his first disciples – disciples who were unlikely candidates as well.

Simon Peter, James and John were not seminary students or educated elite. They had no standing of note in the synagogue or the community. They were simply blue-collar workers providing food for people’s stomachs and an income for themselves and their families. They and the rest of the disciples all seemed very ordinary. And yet these are the ones Jesus invited to join him on his most holy work – that of fishing for the hearts and souls of men.

In Matthew and Mark’s version of this first call, Jesus seems to call the disciples out of nowhere – simply appearing to them and saying: “follow me.” This reminds us that the call of Jesus is powerful and persuasive

enough that it doesn't need astonishing miracles or angelic visions to accompany it. God's word and promise alone can suffice.

And yet, God always accompanies his call with works too – whether seen before one responds, or after one responds, or during a process of responding.

Luke's telling of the story is about process. Last week we discovered that Simon Peter had already witnessed a healing by Jesus. Peter's own mother-in-law was healed from a threatening fever. Surely faith must have been stirring in his heart after that.

But as today's story begins, Peter still seems to be on the edge. While Jesus was teaching, Peter was busy washing his nets.

Jesus, however, goes and finds him and steps into his boat. Then he asks him to push out into the water.

Peter now has a choice to make. Should he do what Jesus asks? He probably didn't want to – tired as he was from his long night of work. But he agreed. Maybe he figured a little teaching would do him some good. Or maybe he just felt like he owed Jesus after the healing of his mother-in-law.

After the teaching, Jesus then has another request. He says: "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

And now Peter is really challenged. It was one thing for Peter to politely listen to some teaching, but quite another to lead an effort which seemed destined for failure. He says:

"Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!" Here Peter reveals that a part of him is still struggling.

And yet, something in Peter tells him to obey the request of this healer and teacher. For he then quickly adds: "But at your word I will let down the nets."

Peter obeyed. And then he was abundantly blessed! Nets overflowing! Astonishing joy!

This, of course, is a lesson all in itself. Jesus blesses obedience.

But here the focus is upon answering God's call. Jesus was calling Peter to be a disciple. And not just one who followed, but also one who would be a worker – a fisher of men.

Peter, however, had one more concern. The blessings of following Jesus may have become abundantly clear, but Peter worried about his sin. He knew that it was an issue. His past sins showed his weakness. Future sins would hamper God's holy work. So he says: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Notice, here Peter has a request for Jesus. "Depart from me." This may seem like a strange request to make. But as with Isaiah, it is born out of the knowledge that one who is sinful has no place in the presence of the holy.

Jesus, however, doesn't depart. Peter will be okay. Jesus has come to call sinners. He will heal them. And even use them despite their flaws. Here Jesus simply shows his acceptance of Peter by saying: "Do not be afraid."

And this statement of acceptance then doubles as a lead-in to Jesus' call. "From now on you will be catching men," says Jesus.

Note that this call isn't even in the form of an invitation. It's in the form of a promise. "You will be," says Jesus. For the call to faith is always accompanied by the call to work. Peter has acted in faith. Jesus tells him how this faith will be lived.

What about you? What is the place of your struggle? Is it the struggle of obedience? Is it the struggle of knowing how to live out the faith? Is it the struggle of faith itself?

All of us struggle from time to time with each of these concerns. Today is a day to identify your current struggles and take them to the Lord.

The texts we've examined so far are all about God coming to us – with requests, invitations and callings. Today's Psalm, however, reverses that direction. It gives voice, instead, to our calling out to God. "On the day I called," it says, "you answered me; my strength of soul you increased."

God answers our calls. He gives direction in life. He gives faith when we ask. He gives friendship and community through the gathering of the saints. He provides abundantly and according to his great wisdom.

So, bring your requests to God. Is there something new toward which God is calling you? Is there a restlessness in your heart which you need to figure out? Is there someone you see that is hurting or lost whom you know you should be fishing for?

Take these needs to the Lord in prayer. God answers our calls. And we should answer his.

We're all unlikely candidates for discipleship, every last one of us. We're not super-Christians. We're ordinary people – hesitant in faith, sometimes wavering in commitment, oftentimes difficult to live with. We're sinful, hypocritical, stingy, short-tempered and insecure.

Yet haven't we all — somewhere, sometime — heard something of God's call in our lives? Each time we reach such a vocational crossroads, we have a choice. We can say yes to God's call, however hesitantly, or we can go our own way.

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" cries the voice of God.

Isaiah says, "Here am I, send me." Peter, Paul and the disciples leave their old ways of life and take on the task of fishing.

What say you?

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) #411

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain***

Refrain

**In Him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
We shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain***

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.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Stand)

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord God of hosts, build up Your Church and manifest Your Spirit among us with wisdom and knowledge. Lead us to fish for men with boldness and integrity, making our words measured and intelligible and leading many to join us in uttering our "Amens" in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our callings, that we would not be discouraged when we toil all night and take nothing but continue to let down the nets of your grace and mercy – doing so according to Your Word and in the confidence of your promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we may be mature in our thinking and infants in evil. Bless our homes, that in them Your Word would be sown and produce much fruit. And guide our nation and community, that we would live together peacefully according to your love for us all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, be not far from us. As You have worked deeds of salvation in Christ Jesus, so make haste to help us now in every trouble. Give healing to the sick, strength to the weak and comfort to the afflicted especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts at this time... Do not forsake us or forget the generations to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send from Your altar, O Lord, the body and blood of Christ. Cleanse us and our lips by this blessed Sacrament, delivering the atonement Christ has won for us, that we may be worthy to stand before You now and at the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, never depart from us. Though we are unworthy of You and Your bounty, You are pleased to receive our meager thanks and reluctant obedience for the sake of Christ's perfect obedience. Let Your Word rule us and Your Spirit revive us to leave behind pride and anxiety alike, that we may follow You in all we do; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

p. 208

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION (Be seated)

The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. Distancing must be maintained between all communicants. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the baskets.

COMMUNION MUSIC

I want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Setting: Mark Bender

**1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT (Stand)

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN #507

Holy, Holy, Holy

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy
Setting: David de Silva

Those serving:

Sunday, February 6, 8:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Steve Berg

Comm. assist: Dede Dixon

Reader: Anne Kauzlarich

10:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Steve Janssen

Comm. assist: Jill Hecht

Reader: Bill Muller

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