

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Jesus for All People

Christus Consolator

February 7, 2021



AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus says, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." His ministry and mission for this world was one for all people. Even as Jesus early on in His earthly ministry heals people, including Simon's mother-in-law, so He comes to us still with healing through the forgiveness of sins. Blessed by Him and His unending grace, we can be rejuvenated and strengthened on "wings like eagles" and serve all in His name and "become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some . . . for the sake of the gospel." Every miraculous act of Jesus would point to His Father in heaven, the reason He was sent into this world, and a foretaste of what is to come when sin and sorrow are no longer part of this broken world. More than that, Christ's healing and preaching would find their culmination in the greatest miracle of His own death and resurrection, showing that the last enemy to be defeated is death. As His victory is our victory, until that Last Day, He continues to heal us with the forgiveness of sins and gives us hearts filled with hope and assurance in Him.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Gracious God gather us in as one people, that we may worship you as one body. Holy One, on wings like eagles, you enable us to soar with the possibilities of revolution, of transformation, both within our own souls and within this world which needs so much care. We pray this afternoon, that the faith of your people - your church - would be strengthened. We need your strength to not grow weary as we continue to hope for new life amidst old attitudes and injuries. We long to run and not grow faint as we challenge demeaning tirades that seep into our own daily encounters and as we work for your compassion and wholeness for all people, and all creatures, and the very earth. Father we see our own hearts, and the sin that remains within us, and it can often be discouraging. And yet we thank you for that fact - that it is discouraging. That there is something within us that looks at the mess and is not content with it, that longs for something more, that hopes for

something better. We thank you for this struggle that reminds us that we are in the race. And Lord would you continually spur us on, through our life, and through the encouragements of other believers, to pursue you, running hard, running with self-control? Would you draw us forward by the irresistible beauty of Christ - the beautiful lover that captures our hearts and causes all other appetites and desires to fade by comparison? Overwhelm us by your love and grace so that we pursue you like a runner, running for the prize. And bring us safely to the end, persevere us until we find ourselves, one day, in your very presence. In Christ's name we ask this, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:

As a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME:

Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful. Gather us in, the weak and the strong. Gather us in, the fearful and the brave. Gather us in, the young and the old. Gather us in, to sing of God's works. Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ. Gather us in, to worship and wonder. Gather us in, to know of God's love. Welcome to God's House.... We are thankful that God has allowed you to enter into our community of faith. Here at Bethel, we are striving to grow and be all that God has called us to be. We are a congregation filled with good people trying to grow in their relationship with God and live out their beliefs in a faithful manner, and a place where the love of Christ is shared freely. No matter who you are and regardless of your background, we greet you with open hearts. You are always welcome... Let's worship together!

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 40:21–22, 28; Psalm 147:3, 5*

Pastor: Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

People: It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, . . . who stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

People: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Pastor: He heals the brokenhearted

People: and binds up their wounds.

Pastor: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

People: His understanding is beyond measure.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Corinthians 9:24–25*

Pastor: O God, You have come to call us to repentance and faith, to salvation and life. We come before You to confess and repent of our sins.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the times we have tried to keep our faith a private concern, failing to be all things to all people for the sake of Your kingdom, instead seeking Your blessings only for ourselves.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the times we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have neglected prayer and concern for the community in need around us and for people throughout the world.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the many faults and failings that are known only to You.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: We hear today in God's Word, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." As we run to our Savior in repentance and rely on Him to receive the crown of life He alone has earned, and upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in

the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Just A Closer Walk With Thee” TFBF 253 St. 1

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1. I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Refrain

☩ **WORD** ☩

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our loving Father, as we run and grow weary and walk and feel faint in this earthly life of trials, troubles, and temptations, raise us up by Your grace that we be invigorated by Your Word and the hope affirmed through Christ's empty tomb; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:21–31

(The Lord's understanding is unsearchable.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed

I believe in One God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son, of God; begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scripture; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for all people of God and for all people in their need. For the Church of God everywhere, that the Lord Jesus would continue to work among His people to forgive sins, deliver from death and the devil, and strengthen and preserve them in the one true faith unto life everlasting, and that His people always remember why He has come as Savior from sin, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the kingdoms of this world, that God would guide rulers to act with justice and integrity in service to all those entrusted to their care, and that when surrounded by violence and uncertainty, His people might trust in His unsearchable wisdom and cling to His promises of rescue in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who grieve and those in need of healing and deliverance, [*especially* . . .], that God who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds would grant them relief and preserve them in the hope of His steadfast love in Christ Jesus. For those who suffer from chronic illness and long-term suffering that, as Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Simon Peter, God would give power to the faint, increase the strength of those who have no might, and preserve them in patience and the faith that in Christ they will mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary and walk and not faint, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Additional petitions may follow.

Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly right and proper for us to give You thanks, heavenly Father, for in Your great love You sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin and death and made Him to be sin in our place and to die the death we deserve. He offered His life on the cross for our forgiveness and was raised to life again that we may have eternal life. We give You thanks for the victory for all people and nations and for calling us to faith by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS “Holy God we Praise Your Name” (TLH 250 Sts. 1 & 4)

1. Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee. All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heaven above adore Thee. Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

4. Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee; Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Revelation 22:20

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We praise You, almighty God, for having fed us with Your very body and blood, and for giving us the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Go with us, we pray, as we journey in the days ahead until we gather together in fellowship again. Protect us on our way, and let Your holy angels watch over us, that the evil enemy may have no power over us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Based on 1 Corinthians 9*

Pastor: As the Lord healed the mother-in-law of Peter, so He heals the wounds of our hearts.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: As Jesus sent away the evil spirits, so He gives us His Spirit of faith and love.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: As He preached the Gospel to all of Galilee, so He brings His life to us.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: In all we do for the sake of the Gospel, that we may share in its blessings.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

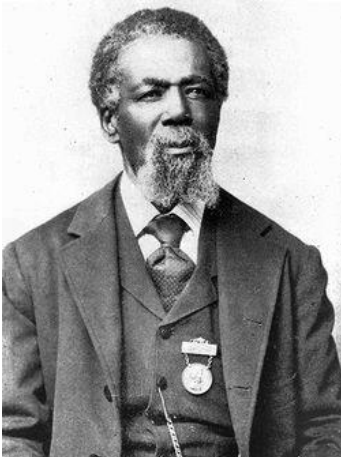
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

Black History Moment:



Mr. Thomas Mundy Peterson, a former slave, became the first African American to vote in an election after passage of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed all men, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, the right to vote.

On March 31, 1870, the day after the amendment was certified as duly ratified. Thomas cast his historic vote in a local election in Perth Amboy, New Jersey for the town's charter. He later became the town's first African American to hold elected office (on the Middlesex County Commission) and its first African American to serve on a jury.