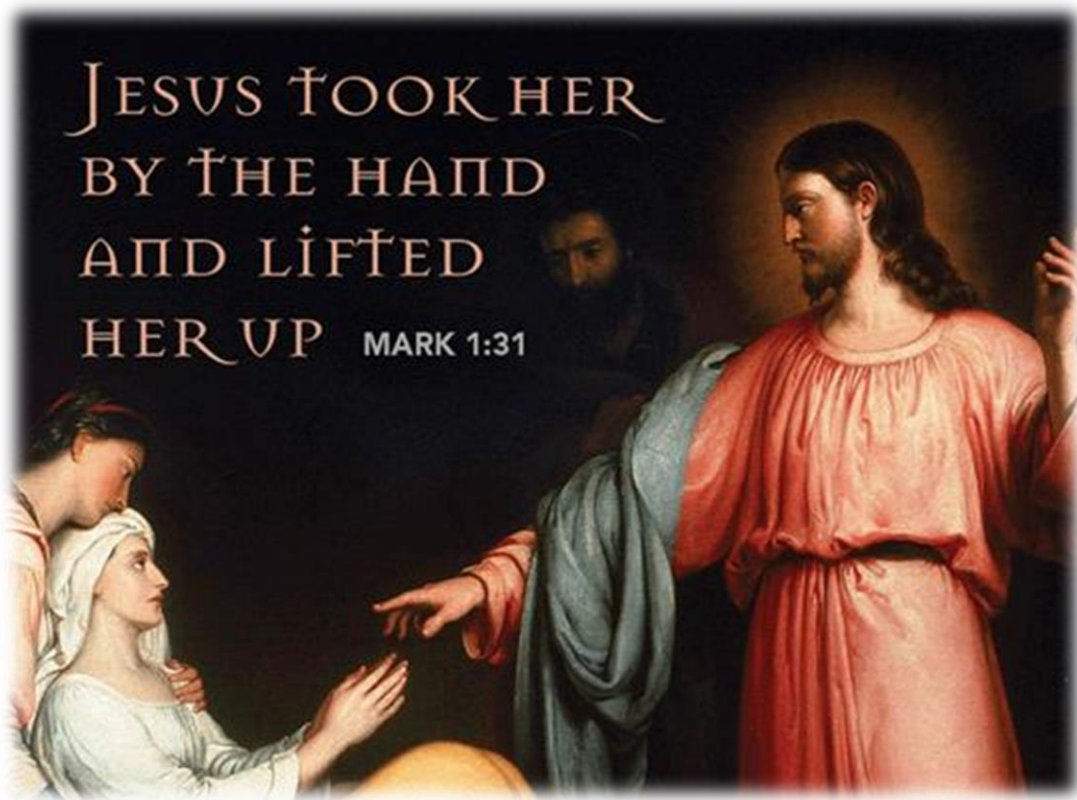




SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 7, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:18-31

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁸To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? ¹⁹An idol? - A workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts for it silver chains. ²⁰As a gift one chooses mulberry wood - wood that will not rot - then seeks out a skilled artisan to set up an image that will not topple. 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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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 brokenhearted 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 LESSON

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from Paul 1st letter to the Corinthians.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor:

1. Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, God of
4. Come, O Spir - it, kin - dle fire in the

All:

mer - cy and com - pas - sion:
hearts of all your peo - ple: Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le -
lu - ia! Praise the Word of truth and life!

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:29-39

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

Pastor Rachel Hoffman



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

APOSTLES' CREED

We now profess the faith we share, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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.

A brief silence.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for chaplains serving in hospitals, hospice houses, and the military, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds among the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place as stewards of all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states, and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, and for all who cry out to you especially, Kathy, Scott, Larry, Martha, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Pat, Mary, Julie, Bob, Karen, Neal, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Steve, John, Bea, Jack, Eric, Doug, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Theresa, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries in this community; for ministries of companionship and support, for the new people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives continue to serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, 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.**

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.

Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

ANTHEM

"I Surrender All"

Jeremy Mims, piano

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

O God, receive the gifts we bring like a parent receives their 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:



Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,
hal - low - ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy
will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
All:
For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er - more. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Living together in these days and wearied by all they demand of us; we lift our prayers and hopes to God.

Healing Lord, you know the pain of your people. We pray for those who suffer from this pandemic. Give strength to the sick, to care providers, and to those who are harmed in any way. Console those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Bless us with effective vaccines that are available to all. Make us witnesses for you in this time, so that we, your people, become a sign of Emmanuel. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, fill you with light and hope eternal.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Indescribable"

1. From the high - est of heights — to the depths of the — sea, — cre - a-tions re -
2. Who has told — ev - ry light — ning bolt where it should — go, — or seen heav - en - ly

6 B \flat /F E \flat maj⁷ Dm C/E F

-veal - ing Your maj - es - ty. — From the col - lours of Fall to the fra-grance of — Spring, —
store-hous - es lad - en with — snow? — Who i - mag - ined the sun and gives source to its — light. —

12 Gm⁷ B \flat /F E \flat maj⁷ B \flat /D C/E F % CHORUS 1 & 2

ev - ry crea-ture u - nique in the song that it — sings. — All ex - claim - ing: In - de - scrib - a - ble,
yet con - ceals it to bring us the cool - ness of — night? — None can fath - om.

18 C B \flat ² Dm F/A

un - con - tain - a - ble; You placed the stars in the sky, and You know them by — name. — You are a - maz - ing, —

23 B \flat F C B \flat ²

— God; — All pow - er - ful, un - tam - a - ble; Awe - struck, we fall to our knees as we hum - bly pro -
In - com - pra - ble, un - change - a - ble; You see the depths of my heart and You love me the .

29 Dm F/A Last time to Coda ☩ 1. B \flat ² C/B \flat B \flat ² C/B \flat B \flat ²

- claim — You are a - maz - ing, — God. —
— same. — You are a - maz -

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the light of Christ for the world.

Thanks be to God.

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