



Church of the Advent

The Liturgy of the Word
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 7, 2021
10:00 am

PRELUDE - *by Bradford Dale*

OPENING SENTENCES

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Celebrant and people

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT - 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c

- 1 **H**allelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- 9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- 12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- 21 Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE - 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God

MUSIC

In Christ There Is No East Or West

ADVENT CHOIR

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
Who serve the father as the son are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth..*

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And 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. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He 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." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON - *The Rev. Jason Oden*

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and people

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The congregation is invited to stand

Officiant **T**o whom will we compare you, O Holy One, the everlasting God, Creator
 of the ends of the earth, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain: Be
 near to us in our weakness and uphold us with your might, as we pray:
 Great is our God and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Intercessor Holy and Eternal One, who never faints or grows weary: Heal and
 empower your Church, entrusted with a commission to bear the Good
 News to all the earth, that we may be all things to all people, serving as
 slaves to all for the sake of the gospel.

People Great is our God and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Intercessor Holy and Eternal One, who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing: Guide our nation and all who lead hold authority in the world, that they may be servants of healing and may cast out all forms of oppression throughout your creation.

People Great is our God and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Intercessor Holy and Eternal One, who gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless: Reach out your hand and lift up all who suffer from illness or fear, violence or threat, that those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint.

People Great is our God and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Intercessor Holy and Eternal One, who lifts up the lowly and makes grass to grow upon the mountains and green plants to serve humankind: Bless this community with compassion and grace, that we may serve one another with deference and respect.

People Great is our God and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Holy and Eternal One, whose understanding is unsearchable:
Touch with your healing compassion those for whom we pray, especially _____. *(Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.)*

Hear our gratefulness for all the blessings of our lives, especially for _____.
(Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.)

Enfold into your eternal love those who have died, especially _____.
(Congregation is welcome to add those names to remember.)

People Great is our God and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

Officiant We look toward your eternal glory, O Holy and Eternal One, and we raise our voices to you in prayer: Enter our homes and towns, our solitudes and cities; cast out everything that oppresses and threatens your people, heal all who are weak, and bring peace in our time, that your whole creation may sing out in praise to proclaim your message of love and hope, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, live and love, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God.

Celebrant and people

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birthdays and Anniversaries of Weddings and Unions

MUSIC

Father In Heaven

ADVENT CHOIR

*Father in Heaven, in thy love abounding,
Hear these thy children thru the world resounding,
Loud in thy praises. Thanks for peace abiding,
Ever abiding.*

*Filled be our hearts with peace beyond comparing,
Peace in thy world, and joy to hearts despairing.
Firm is our trust in thee for peace enduring,
Ever enduring.*

*God of our fathers, strengthen ev'ry nation
In thy great peace, where only is salvation.
So may the world its future spread before thee,
Thus to adore thee.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and people

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Celebrant and people

**God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lift up your eyes on high and see the everlasting God, great in strength and mighty in power; who gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless.

Reach out to our Savior Jesus, for he will take you by the hand, heal you and lift you up, that you may be of service in his name.

Wait upon the Spirit to renew your strength, that you may mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and never faint.

And the blessing of our empowering God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and uplift you, now and always. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - *by Bradford Dale*



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OPEN DOOR MINISTRY



Open Door Ministries

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