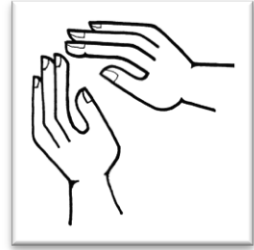


## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY [LECTIONARY 5]

THURSDAY, 1:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 4, 2020

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

**Welcome to guests and visitors!** *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by ☒ and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

### About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church

"It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

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*The opening music on Thursday is [Hanover \(# 842\)](#).*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

☒ Amen.

## SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**☩ you search us and know us.**

**You are acquainted with all our ways.**

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—  
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward,**

**failing to follow your outward way of love.**

**We distrust those who are not like us.**

**We exploit the earth and its resources  
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,**

**for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,  
you know them;**

**receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**☩ Amen.**

### ENTRANCE PSALM (95)

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the Lord;

**☩ let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>7b</sup>Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

<sup>8b</sup>“Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness.”  
Glory 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.

### 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of  
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

☪ **Lord, have mercy.**

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

☪ **Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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 READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

<sup>21</sup>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? <sup>22</sup>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; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>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"? <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>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.

The word of the Lord.

**☪ Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 147:1-12, 21c**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

**☪ <sup>2</sup>The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

**☪ <sup>4</sup>He counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

**☪ <sup>6</sup>The Lord lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
make music to our God upon the harp.

**☪ <sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>he makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
and green plants to serve mankind.

**☪ <sup>10</sup>He provides food for flocks and herds  
and for the young ravens when they cry.**

<sup>11</sup>He is not impressed by the might of a horse;  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

**☪ <sup>12</sup>but the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who await his gracious favor. <sup>21c</sup> Hallelujah!**

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

*Paul writes:* <sup>16</sup>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! <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>I 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

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name;

**☩ bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

**☩ In the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"**

Alleluia. The servant of God took our infirmities

**☩ and bore our diseases. Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>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.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>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." <sup>39</sup>And 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

*Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

The music on Thursday is [Lobe Den Herren \(# 858\)](#).

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☪ **And also with you.**

*The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.*

### APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☪ **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.**

### INSTALLATION OF LEADERS IN THE CONGREGATION

*On Sunday, Council Members will be installed.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition ends: let us pray.*

☪ **Have mercy, O God.**

*The prayers conclude: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people . . .  
who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.*

☪ **Amen.**

## OFFERING PRESENTATION

*Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the world.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☩ Amen.**

## OFFERING PSALM (17)

<sup>1</sup>Hear my plea of innocence, O Lord; give heed to my cry;

**☩ listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.**

<sup>2</sup>Let my vindication come forth from your presence;

**☩ let your eyes be fixed on justice.**

<sup>3</sup>Weigh my heart, summon me by night,

**☩ melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.**

<sup>4</sup>I give no offense with my mouth as others do;

**☩ I have heeded the words of your lips.**

<sup>8</sup>Keep me as the apple of your eye;

**☩ hide me under the shadow of your wings,**

<sup>9</sup>from the wicked who assault me,

**☩ from my deadly enemies who surround me.**

Glory 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.**

*The table is set.*

## DIALOGUE

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**

*The minister continues, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)**

**☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father . . .

for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup . . . to share with us the great and promised feast.

**☞ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit . . .

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants . . .

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**☞ Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**☩ 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 forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine.

Here is Jesus. Receive and be fed.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION SONG (AGNUS DEI)

**☩ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.*

## BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (34)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**☩ Amen.**

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the Lord at all times;

**☩ his praise shall ever be in my mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon him and be radiant,  
**☪ and let not your faces be ashamed.**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
**☪ and his ears are open to their cry.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them  
**☪ and delivers them from all their troubles.**

<sup>18</sup>The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
**and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
**☪ but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.**

<sup>20</sup>He will keep safe all his bones;  
**☪ not one of them shall be broken.**

<sup>22</sup>The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,  
**☪ and none will be punished who trust in him.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☪ Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

*Response after the blessing:*

**☪ Amen.**

### **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

*At the conclusion, the assembly responds:*

**☪ Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**☩ Thanks be to God.**

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### Where the Crowd Is

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?” So begins the prophet Isaiah’s marvelous declaration (Isaiah 40:21, 28).

People were stirring in Capernaum, Simon Peter’s seaside fishing town. Apparently the whole city knew and heard; why else, at day’s end, would all the houses have emptied out leaving fish to be cleaned, floors to be swept, children to be bathed, wheat to be ground, and goats to be milked, so people could huddle at his door?

In the morning, crowds were again on the move, this time near the deserted place where Jesus was in prayerful retreat. Apparently everyone knew and heard; why else, at such an hour, would people in neighboring towns have delayed breakfasts, postponed boat launchings, put off opening markets, set aside filling lamps, put down mending, to go searching for him?

Some years ago, theologian Douglas John Hall wrote a provocative book, *Waiting for Gospel*. Its cover pictures an individual standing alone in an open field, looking down, waiting. The book presents a critique and reminder for the church: whole cities, neighboring towns, are crowding doors, searching deserted places for good news, for gospel. But is the church sharing the gospel?

Isn’t someone always selling snake-oil solutions for shriveled hearts, beachfront on a desert seashore, joy from a pill? What are we to believe? Who are we to listen to? When pandemic wobbles the globe, seas rise and economies fall, depressions blossom and hopes wither; when people starve in the shadow of mountains of rotting food, artificial intelligence baits kitchen table wisdom, virtual relationships land knockout blows to authentic community, and “mass” is the prefix to “incarceration,” “migration,” and “destruction”—which door are we to crowd? Where are we to search?

Have we not known? Have we not heard? Good news draws a crowd; the gospel is found in Jesus!