



Sunday, February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

GATHERING

WELCOME

(Please stand as you are able)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

**Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

OPENING SONG ELW #696 vs.1,3,5 *Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult*

- 1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":
- 3 Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."
- 5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 886 vs. 1 & 6 *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Most holy God,

the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Through a vision in the temple, the eighth-century prophet Isaiah is called by God to announce judgment against Israel. Aware of his sinfulness and shortcomings, Isaiah is initially hesitant. But when God calls, Isaiah responds, "Here am I; send me!"

¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ² Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

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

⁴ The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵ And I

said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" [⁹ And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.'¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." ¹¹ Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. ¹³ Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.]

Psalm: Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus' teaching of God's word has begun to draw great crowds. For Simon, James, and John, Jesus' teaching inspires hospitality, then obedience, and then risk. After Jesus' creative power is revealed, fear and amazement leads these three fishermen to leave everything behind to become apostles.

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners

in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Music: *Jesus Loves Me* – ELW #595

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Music: *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying* – ELW #752

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY ELW 798 vs.1,2,5 *Will You Come and Follow Me?*

- 1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?
- 2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?
- 5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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(Please stand as you are able)

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Gods 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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of surprising abundance, you call your people to enter deeply into the world. Equip us to respond to your call, gather up what we have, and offer it to all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, provide protection from the elements and other hazards to all whose work brings them outside: for fishers, ranchers, line workers, and construction crews. Guide us to live carefully alongside the wonders of the land and waters. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Open the hearts of all leaders, especially those who serve in the armed forces, that they respond to their commission with wisdom and patience. Ensure that all who serve are kept safe in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Fill with your compassionate presence all who are suffering from addiction, mental illness, injury, or illness of any kind (*especially*). Draw helpers to their side so that they find relief from their burdens. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Call our faith communities to do marvelous things. Bless the labor and efforts of this congregation, that we may be a sign of your presence in the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

Viriginia Anderson

Norie Allen

Hunter Peleaux

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For your people in the midst of war, civil unrest, or conflict, grant protection, strength and hope for a better tomorrow. Bring peace and an end to the conflict. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We thank you for those who have courageously gone before us in the faith (*especially*). May we too show a deep trust in you throughout our lives. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the Lord's Peace with one another

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

Thank you for your support of our ministry.

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY ELW #186 *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right and [our joy] that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Music: *Holy, Holy, Holy* – ELW Service Page 144 (Setting 3)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Amen

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us:

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**

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

The presiding minister invites the assembly
The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

**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.**

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

CONTINUOUS COMMUNION BEGINS

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(Please stand as you are able)

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen

SENDING

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen

SENDING SONG ELW 575 vs 1, 3 *In Christ Called to Baptize*

1 In Christ called to baptize,
we witness to grace
and gather a people
from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters,
we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life,
give thanks with each breath.

3 In Christ called to witness,
by grace we will preach
the life-giving gospel;
God's love we will teach.
By grace may our living
give proof to our praise
in costly compassion
reflecting Christ's ways.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Blessed are those who trust the LORD, they are like trees by water

Psalms 1

They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Christ has been raised, the first fruits of those who have died

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus speaks blessings on the poor and hungry; woes on the rich and full

Upcoming Commemorations

Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs

Friday, February 14, 2025

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 9, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

A Too-Small God?

Does the Lord's presence make you uncomfortable? This question may seem odd: after all, don't we call our worship spaces "sanctuaries"? Our readings today, however, feature people who, in their contact with God, are moved to express their unworthiness. A vision of divine glory overwhelms Isaiah with the holiness of "the Lord of hosts," before whom he is "a man of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). After condescendingly agreeing to follow Jesus' fishing directions, Simon discovers just how little he knows and cries out, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8). Paul tells how he had rejected what God did in raising Jesus from the dead. All three faced revelations of God's greatness that dwarfed their expectations. These surprises evoked responses quite foreign to our culture of self-affirmation: a consciousness of their own unworthiness before such a glorious God.

While we probably don't want people diving under their pews during worship, a God before whom we feel fully composed and confident is not the "holy, holy, holy . . . LORD of hosts" (Isaiah 6:3) seen by Isaiah. Do we settle for a tame God, one who happens to approve of everything we do and disapprove of whatever we don't like?

As these stories continue, they show us that a full vision of God's holiness need not leave us shaking in terror. God's true glory is mercy. A heavenly being cleanses Isaiah's lips, and he is sent to Israel as God's messenger. Undeserving Paul becomes an apostle. Jesus tells Simon, "Do not be afraid," and he receives a vital role in the Savior's mission (Luke 5:10).

The gospel reveals that God's holiness does not destroy sinners but, rather, consumes *sin* through forgiveness. Before we could ever deserve it, the waters of baptism wash us with grace. God's greatness becomes small for us in the Christ child, in the simple words of absolution, and in a taste of bread and wine. Forgiven and healed, we—blessed despite our unworthiness—are now sent to share the good news.

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