

Sunday, February 5, 2017  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

## **INTRODUCTION**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

## **\*GATHERING SONG      *"I Will Sing, I Will Sing"***

**I will sing I will sing  
A song unto the Lord  
I will sing I will sing  
A song unto the Lord  
I will sing I will sing  
A song unto the Lord  
Alleluia glory to the Lord**

### **Chorus**

**Allelu alleluia glory to the Lord  
Allelu alleluia glory to the Lord  
Allelu alleluia glory to the Lord  
Alleluia glory to the Lord**

**We will come we will come  
As one before the Lord  
We will come we will come  
As one before the Lord  
We will come we will come  
As one before the Lord  
Alleluia glory to the Lord**

**If the Son if the Son  
Shall make you free  
If the Son if the Son  
Shall make you free  
If the Son if the Son  
Shall make you free  
You shall be free indeed**

**They that sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy  
They that sow in tears  
Shall reap in joy  
They that sow in tears**

**Shall reap in joy  
Alleluia glory to the Lord**

**Ev'ry knee shall bow  
And ev'ry tongue confess  
Ev'ry knee shall bow  
And ev'ry tongue confess  
Ev'ry knee shall bow  
And ev'ry tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord**

**In His name in His name  
We have the victory  
In His name in His name  
We have the victory  
In His name in His name  
We have the victory  
Alleluia glory to the Lord**

**\*GREETING**

**P** *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**G** **And also with you**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria,  
glory to God on high!  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria,  
glory to God on high!  
And on earth peace to God's people.  
Glory to God.  
And on earth peace to God's people.  
Glory to God.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *Lord God,*

**G** **with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you.  
By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the  
grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord. Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,

and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

### **Reflection**

*What is it that the prophet is supposed to shout and not hold back, to trumpet to the people? (verse 1) What have the people been doing? (verses 2-3a, 5) How does God see their "righteous" worship? (verses 3a-5) What does God want them to do? (verses 6-7) What is the difference between what they were doing in worship, and what they were doing the rest of the time? I think God is calling the people to have integrity, that is, to live their lives so that they are the same outside of worship as what they say and do in worship. That is a difficult thing. One of the charges often used against religious people is that they are hypocrites. Have you ever experienced that? I find that it is easy to point out hypocrisy in others, and much more difficult to identify it in ourselves. Who is God concerned about in this text? How is God's concern for people who are oppressed, hungry, homeless...? How is God concerned about the worshippers? (verses 8-10) What does God want from us? For us? Why is it important to live out our worship life in our daily lives?*

### **PSALM 112:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God's commandments!  
<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;  
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.  
<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**  
<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.  
<sup>6</sup>**For they will nev- | er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**  
<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.  
<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**  
<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness  
stands | fast forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.  
<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their  
teeth and | pine away;  
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.**

### **Reflection**

*This psalm reflects on human responsibility in the relationship between God and people, on what it means to “fear the Lord...[and] delight in his commandments.” (On fearing the Lord, see the explanations to the Ten Commandments in the Small Catechism, which you can find on pages 1160-1161 in the cranberry colored hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.) Why is it important to delight in the commandments of God? How does it benefit us? How does it benefit our neighbors? (Which is the real point in keeping the commandments!) Have you ever been blessed by someone else keeping God’s law?*

### **SECOND READING**

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God’s hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God’s revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Reflection**

*How did Paul preach the gospel to the Corinthians when he first came to be their pastor? (verses 1-5) Do you think Paul was a good preacher? In Paul’s writing, what makes a good preacher good? (verse 2) The notes in the Lutheran Bible point out that this is not just talking about an event in the past (the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday), but it is about who Jesus is right now (when Paul wrote to the Corinthians, and also write now as we read this passage), as the crucified one who died, and who rose from the dead. The resurrection does not erase the crucifixion. For example, I think of my Dad, whose faith in Jesus was so important to me becoming who I am. As you know, in his last years he suffered*

*from Alzheimer's, and was not able to talk about Jesus, or even in ways that the rest of us could understand show his faith in Jesus. But his Alzheimer's did not erase who he was. So Jesus, who rose from the dead, was the crucified one. I think Paul might say that the "wisdom of this age" is that how you end up is who you really are. (see verse 8) So the wisdom of this age can refer to people as "losers." How does God see such people? (verses 9-12) What makes us God's people? I think this text is hard to understand, but it whispers to us that there is more to life than the wisdom of this world. What do you think?*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

<sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

### **Reflection**

*What does it mean to you to be the salt of the earth? I love to cook and bake and watch cooking and baking on TV. One of the comments often made in the TV shows I watch is that someone doesn't have enough salt in their food. (Less often, there is too much salt.) How does the taster know if there is enough salt? Surprisingly, it is when you can't taste the salt, but the food tastes more like itself. The role of salt in cooking and baking is to enhance the flavor of the food you are making. So what kind of Christians are "the salt of the earth," if that is the role of salt? Salt can also be used to preserve food, and again, the role of salt is not to call attention to itself, but to make other food better. (I got this idea from an article I read this week in Christian Century, and I found it very helpful in thinking about what it means to be "salty." I think the same thing could be said for light. No one lights a lamp just to look at the lamp, but to illuminate what is around it. So what is our role if we are to be "the light of the world"? (verse 16) This brings me back to the text from Isaiah. Why is it important to live our lives so that people see that the way we worship is also the way we live? What happens to our saltiness and our light when we break the commandments? (verses 17-20) Whose righteousness does our salt and light come from? (verse 20)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

***"You Are What God Has Created"***

Rev. Roger Lenander

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***"This Little Light of Mine"***

1. This little light
2. Hide it under a bushel
3. Let it shine till Jesus comes
4. All around the neighborhood
5. This little light

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

***"I Believe I Do Believe"***

***Refrain***

**I believe, I do believe,  
truly I believe it,  
truly I believe it,  
truly I believe it.  
I believe, I do believe,  
truly I believe it,  
truly I believe it,  
truly I believe it.**

**I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator,  
Mighty Lord Creator,  
Mighty Lord Creator.**

**I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator,  
Mighty Lord Creator,  
Mighty Lord Creator.**

**I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people,  
Savior of the people,  
Savior of the people.**

**I believe in Jesus the Savior of the people,  
Savior of the people,  
Savior of the people.**

**And I do believe in the Power of the Spirit,  
Power of the Spirit,  
Power of the Spirit.**

**And I do believe in the Power of the Spirit,  
Power of the Spirit,  
Power of the Spirit. *Refrain***

**\*PRAYER SONG**

**"Let My Prayer Be a Fragrant Offering"**

**Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,  
as incense to you arise.**

**Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,  
my hands lifted up in praise.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing.

*A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you are one-in-three and three-in-one. Strengthen the ministry of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. Solidify ecumenical partnerships as they work to break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Send relief where storms and floods overwhelm. Provide shelter and safe habitat for all creatures. Protect seeds and bulbs for the spring and fall harvest. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ignite the nations with the flame of your justice. Enlighten the leaders of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank with your wisdom; guide government officials to seek economic justice in their communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Comfort the afflicted, compassionate God. Accompany all who wait on death row. Reconcile families torn apart by crime or addiction. Heal the brokenhearted, the newly diagnosed, and all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: hear our prayers and grant your healing for those who may be sick or in pain. *We especially pray for Terry, Stephanie, John, Dorothy, Linda, Jim, Scott, Alva, and Isabel.* We also pray for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Fill those who form the faith of others with insight and energy. Multiply the fruit of their labor. Grow disciples eager to feast on your living word and embody it each day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for all the saints who dared to shine with the light of Christ. Compel us to shine freely and witness to your abundant grace each day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- ℘ The peace of Christ be with you always.  
☞ **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

**"Count Your Blessings"**  
Sunny Ellis, folk harp

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE "Give Thanks"**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks!**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

- ℘ *Merciful God,*  
☞ **receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions.  
Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of  
your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*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**

- ℘ *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,  
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God,  
God of might and power; holy is the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.  
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:*

*Blessed are you for the birth of creation.*

*Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.*

*Blessed are you for your promise to your people.*

*Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.*

*Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.*

*Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.*

*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.*

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**C** **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**P** *With this bread and cup*

*we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.*

*We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.*

*We look with hope for his coming.*

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** *Holy God, we long for your Spirit.*

*Come among us.*

*Bless this meal.*

*May your Word take flesh in us.*

*Awaken your people.*

*Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

**☩ Come, Holy Spirit.**

**℘** *All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.*

**☩ Amen!**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**☩ 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**

**℘** *We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.  
Come. Be filled with light and life.*

**COMMUNION SPECIAL MUSIC**

***"Here I Am To Worship"***

Sunny Ellis, folk harp

**\*BLESSING**

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

**☩ Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**℘** *O Morning Star, fair and bright,*

**☩ you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our  
dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—  
that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your  
praise both now and forever. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

☞ *The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.*

☞ **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**                      **"God is Good All the Time"**

***Refrain***

**God is good all the time  
He put a song of praise  
In this heart of mine  
God is good all the time  
Through the darkest night  
His light will shine  
God is good God is good  
All the time**

**If you're walkin' through the valley  
And there are shadows all around  
Do not fear He will guide you  
He will keep you safe and sound  
'Cause He has promised to never leave you  
Nor forsake you and His Word is true *Refrain***

**We were sinners so unworthy  
Still for us He chose to die  
Filled us with His Holy Spirit  
Now we can stand and testify  
That His love is everlasting  
And His mercies they will never end *Refrain***

**\*DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

☞ **Thanks be to God!**