

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



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Secretary, Sue Wiener

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Prelude/Procession/Bell

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

L: Blessed be the holy trinity, ☩ one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: Amen

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Loving God,

C: We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

L: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together, God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW #726**

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. **Refrain:**

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. **Refrain:**

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 One Licence #A-736797

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***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.**

***Hymn of Praise:** “This is the Feast” ELW Setting 4, page 149

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Augsburg Fortress. #SB109327

***The Prayer of the Day:**

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.**

Scripture Acclamation: “Thy Word”

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.

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Scripture Reading:

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? 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.**Responsive Psalm Reading:**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

L: Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

C: The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.

L: The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

C: The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

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

C: The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.

L: Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

C: who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.

L: God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

C: God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,

L: but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God's steadfast love. Hallelujah!

Scripture Reading:

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! 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" ELW, Setting 4, Page 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Augsburg Fortress. #SB109327

***Holy Gospel:**

Mark 1:29-39

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As 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.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW #843**

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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***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 the People:**

L: God of grace, **C:** receive our prayer.

***Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Hymn: "Arise, Your Light Has Come! ELW #314 (vs. 1,3)

1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.

3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

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***Offertory Prayer:**

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Holy, Holy, Holy:**

ELW Setting 4, Page 153

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of Pow'r and might,
Heav'n 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

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***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer:**

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymns:

"Lamb of God"

ELW, Setting 4, Page 154

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.

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"Lord, Be Glorified"

ELW #744

1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.

2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in our song, Lord, be glorified today.

3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in your church, Lord, be glorified today.

4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

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"Healer of Our Every Ill"

ELW #612

Refrain:

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **Refrain:**

2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. **Refrain:**

3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **Refrain:**

4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **Refrain:**

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“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

ELW #684

1 Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

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***Communion Blessing**

***Communion Prayer:**

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

***Benediction:**

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠
bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn: “This Little Light of Mine”**

ELW #677

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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***Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **C: Thanks be to God.**