

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Fifth Sunday after Epiphany † February 4 & 7, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

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.**

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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The Lord heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴**The Lord counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.**

⁵Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
there is no limit | to God’s wisdom.

⁶**The Lord lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the Lord| with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the Lord,
in those who await God’s steadfast love. ^{20c}| Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶If 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹As 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.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Love to Tell the Story"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

NICENE CREED

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you especially we remember those in our hearts and minds, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here; for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

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 him thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Consecration of Elements

PRAYER

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you feed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ronnie & Kathy Rohrs in honor of their wedding anniversary.

This week please hold in prayer: Marilyn Kruse, Evelyn Allen, Oneta Wiechers, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

VBS Coordinator Needed

Emanuel is looking for a new VBS Coordinator. Laura Ellis-Kruse has graciously filled this position for several years and feels it is time to turn the reigns over to someone new. The VBS Coordinator is responsible for representing Emanuel in the Downtown VBS Program held every summer. Responsibilities include attending meetings, coordinating with the other churches on the curriculum, and the recruitment of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Deanna McCabe at 419-276-2709 or Kaitlin Cordes at 419-822-1762 or at kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Gospel: Mark 9:2-9. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

JOIN US in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

February 7: 2 Corinthians 3
February 8: 2 Corinthians 4
February 9: 2 Corinthians 5
February 10: 2 Corinthians 6

February 11: 2 Corinthians 7
February 12: 2 Corinthians 8
February 13: 2 Corinthians 9

Communion will be offered the 1st Sunday of each month from 10-11am. If the county is yellow or orange, we will do this like we have done before. If the county is red, we invite you to bring your own elements. You can use bread, crackers, or any ordinary substance for the body and wine, grape juice, other juice, or any celebratory drink for the blood. We will have prefilled communion kits available if needed. You will pull into the parking lot from Clinton Street and remain in your vehicle. I will be standing at the back corner of the building. When it's your turn, I will say a prayer and bless the elements and invite you to partake, then bless you! When you're done you can leave through the alley. If you aren't available during that time, feel free to set up a time throughout the week for you to receive communion this way.

Ash Wednesday worship will have a few different parts this year. First, ashes will be available in the mailbox by the back door to pick up in advance if you want. I will be outside from 12-1pm and again from 5:30-6:30pm offering ashes and communion. We will have the ashes for you and you will put them on yourselves. Bring your own elements for communion (we will have prepackaged elements available if needed, too). At 7pm we will gather online for the full Ash Wednesday liturgy via Facebook and Zoom.

Chicken and Rib BBQ

Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives is sponsoring a Chicken and Rib Barbecue tomorrow from 12 noon to 6 p.m. in the alley beside the Learning Center at 720 N. Perry. (please enter the alley from North Perry). For \$8 you may have either Chicken or Ribs with a bag of chips, applesauce, and a dinner roll or meat only for \$6. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time, but drive-thru's are welcome. To reserve your dinners, call Kelli Burkhardt at 419-579-0199 or email togethernwoh@gmail.com. Chicken & Ribs prepared by Port-A-Pit BBQ from Edgerton, Ohio.

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

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