

SPIRIT OF GRACE
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
February 7, 2021

The congregation's part is in **bold**.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**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.**

THE FIRST 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? 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; who brings
princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. 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.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 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.

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"? 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. He gives power to
the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted; 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND 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! 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. 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.

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. 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. 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. 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **Mark 1:29-39**

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. 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. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

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." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Peggy Rose

INTERGENERATIONAL CREED

Together let us affirm our shared faith in the words of the Intergenerational Creed written by members of Spirit of Grace.

We believe in God, the Father, who is...Our Leader, Loving, Our Protector, Compassionate, Our Provider and Caring.

The Father ...Created Us, Gave Us Life and Gave Us Freedom of Choice.

We believe in God, the Son, who is...Holy, A Teacher, A Helper, A Friend, Giving and Thankful.

The Son...Puts Others Before Himself, Sacrifices Himself for Us, Is Obedient and Shines.

We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, who is...Invincible, Powerful, A Leader, Overwhelming, Amazing, Loving and Awesome.

The Holy Spirit...Picks You Up When You Are Down, Comforts You, Gives You a Shoulder to Cry On, Helps You Get Better, Provides Strength and Gives You Spirit. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Silence

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles especially Raymond, Cryss, Wilma, Bugs, Andrea, Kim, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, remembering especially Martin Luther King, Jr. We ask that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING TO GOD

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

*Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

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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.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as our Savior, Christ has 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Friends in Christ, during this Epiphany season as we continue to share in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, God's only Son and his recognition as the newly born King of the Jews by the world represented by the Magi. We recognize his birth as a gift of hope to bring peace and goodwill to the world.

Just as Mary and Joseph were separated from their families as they took Jesus and fled to Egypt for safety, our church family continues in our separation.

When we partake in the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus during the celebration of the Eucharist, we celebrate the gift of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This morning let us focus of the gift of hope brought by the birth of Jesus as we pray together the prayer of Spiritual Communion, gifted to us from the Prayer Book of the Armed Services as we invite the communion of the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we implore you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

EVERLASTING GOD

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord
We will wait upon the Lord

*Our God You reign forever
Our Hope our strong Deliv'rer*

*You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God
You do not faint
You won't grow weary
You're the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles*

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

THANKS BE TO GOD!