

Third Sunday of Epiphany

THEME: New Life empowers us to speak words that build

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

WE CONFESS OUR SINS.....

C: Gracious God, we come to you today, admitting that we are sinners, in need of your forgiveness. We admit particularly that at times we have not been sensitive in the choosing of the words we say. Too often our words been idle, not bringing the health and grace you desire them to have for others. Forgive us for that lack of caring, and give us your Spirit's power to love our fellow believers as you love us.

SONG OF CONFESSION "Red Book" 47 Freely, Freely

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His love as He told me to.
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live."*

*All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name,
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to.
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live."*

P: God in his mercy knows our sin and forgives it, more than we even ask. In the certainty of his love for us, I pronounce to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE "Red Book" 1 How Majestic (Two times)

*How Majestic is Your Name (Red Book 1)
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name
O Lord, we magnify your name, Prince of Peace, mighty God
O Lord God Almighty
(Repeat)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Heavenly Father, when your Son, Jesus, came to earth his words alone ministered to people. Jesus once used these words, "Peace be with you!" When he spoke those words his troubled disciples were comforted and relaxed. Help us today to be more aware of the opportunities to speak comforting words to others

By holding them up in prayer

By listening to their concerns

By encouraging when they are down

By assuring them of your gracious love.

We ask this in Jesus' name and for Your glory—through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4 God promises light and joy for those who live in darkness

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 1:10-18 What unites the Church of God is the cross of Christ

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

CHOIR ANTHEM **Lay Down Your Troubles**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25 Jesus brings the Kingdom of heaven to a land of darkness

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

*“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”*

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN “Green Book” 423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy’s perfect deed:
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose Ev’ry gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you Lord, in deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul
By your Spirit send your power To our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service, You’re abundant life to share.*

SERMON “Building People”

Ephesians 4:29

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

OFFERINGS GATHERED

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service)

OFFERING SONG

Make Me a Servant

*Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak,
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.
(repeat)*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: **Hear our prayer.**)

LORD'S PRAYER

OUR GUEST SPEAKER: Ken Elwer Chief of Police

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 557

Let All Things Now Living

*Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.*

*His law he enforces, The stars in their courses
And sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, The rivers and fountains,
The deeps of the ocean proclaim him divine.
We too should be voicing Our love and rejoicing;
With glad adoration a song lets us raise
Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC