

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THEME: Knowing that Jesus intercedes for us in prayer, we intercede for others.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ON THE LORD IN PRAYER

C: Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it your mercy, grace and love. Deliver us, as we come into your presence today in worship, from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus. Amen.

TIME TO REFLECT.....

P: 1 Peter 2 reminds us that we are a royal priesthood. God has blessed us with the privilege of interceding for others through prayer. Have we made prayer for others a priority? Have we trusted God to answer our prayers for others? During this time of silence, we reflect on our failures in prayer and our desire to do better.

Time of Silence

P: We confess.....

C: We confess our sin and shortcomings. We see a glimpse of what we ought to be and we know we fall short of the goal. We desire faith that is solid and unchanging, yet we crumble under trials and temptations. We desire to be people who intercede for others, yet we often fail in following through. Lord, forgive us. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for Your purposes.

P: In today's gospel it is said of Jesus, "(He) departed and went out to a desolate place and prayed". It is a comfort to remember that Jesus never ceases to intercede for us at the Father's throne, pleading there

His perfect sacrifice on our behalf. The Father has heard our confession of our shortcomings today and Jesus' prayers for us. As a called and ordained servant, I announce God's grace to you—your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 546

When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries;
May Jesus Christ be praised! When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs;
May Jesus Christ be praised! God's holy house of prayer
Has none that can compare with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

To him, my highest and best, I sing, when love – possessed:
May Jesus Christ be praised! What e'er my hands begin,
This blessing shall break in: may Jesus Christ be praised!

No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to the eternal Word
The eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40: 21-31 *The Lord is the everlasting God*

Do you not know? Do you not hear?

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 dwell in;

who brings princes to nothing,

and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows on them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,

that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,

calling them all by name,

by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong 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 to him who has no might he increases strength.
Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they 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.

Epistle Lesson: I Corinthians 9:16-27 *For the sake of the gospel, Paul becomes all things to win some*

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, 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 not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Sanctus

By Tom Fettke

[Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39](#) *Jesus heals many who were sick with various diseases*

And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed 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.

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

[CHILDREN'S MESSAGE](#)

[SERMON HYMN "Red Book" 198](#)

[Sweet Hour of Prayer](#)

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my petition bear,
To him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word and trust his grace,
I'll cast on him my every care, and wait, for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height, I view my home, and take my flight;
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise to seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing thro' the air, farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer.

[SERMON "Take Position: Ministering Through Prayer" Mark 1:35](#)

PRAYER

C: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

C: I believe in God, who has created all things and continues to create new life within us.....
I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By his life, his death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life.....
I believe that the Holy Spirit is present, now and always, calling us to faith, giving us gifts and empowering us for service.....
I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the word, the sacraments, and all that we do.

OFFERINGS GATHERED

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

OFFERING SONG

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition the response is sung:

C: O Lord, hear my prayer.

O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer,

O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Guest Speaker

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC