

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 9, 2025

Thank you to Bishop Emeritus John Roth for leading worship this morning

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for confession

P: Have mercy, O God,

C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

C: Blessed be God forever.

*Gathering Song – “Blessed Be Your Name”

(piano)

1. **Blessed be your name In the land that is plentiful
Where your streams of abundance flow Blessed be your name**

2. **Blessed be your name When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be your name**

Refrain:

*Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise When the darkness closes in,
Lord, still I will say*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name*

3. **Blessed be your name When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be' Blessed be your name**

4. **Blessed be your name On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be your name** *Refrain*

**You give and take away You give and take away My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be your name**

**You give and take away You give and take away My heart will choose to say
Lord, blessed be your name**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your glorious name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be your glorious name**

*Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ... Healing Lord,

C: **By your goodness you healed many who were ill, even raising the dead to life.
Restore us to new life, healing our hearts, minds, and spirits, so that we may
proclaim praise and gratitude for your compassion to all who will hear. In the
name of the one who is himself new life, Jesus Christ our savior. Amen**

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 7:1-17 Reader: Mike Fenner

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum.

²A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death.

³When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, 'He is

worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.' ⁶And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house,

the centurion sent friends to say to him, 'Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only

speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and

he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.' ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, 'I tell you, not

even in Israel have I found such faith.' ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

¹¹Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried

out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do

not weep.' ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and

Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A

great prophet has risen among us!’ and ‘God has looked favorably on his people!’ ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of Praise – “Take My Life that I May Be” ELW 583 (piano)

*Refrain: Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

1. **Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

2. **Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose. Refrain**

3. **Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. Refrain**

4. **Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain**

Sermon: "Raising the Widow’s Son”

Song of the Day – “Before the Waters Nourished Earth” (ACS 1049) (organ)

- 1 **Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.**
- 2 **This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.**
- 3 **Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim to dwell within our dying.**
- 4 **The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing.
This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.**

**The Apostles’ Creed*

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.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” arr. Anderson
Kelly Hartz and Terri Kimler

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

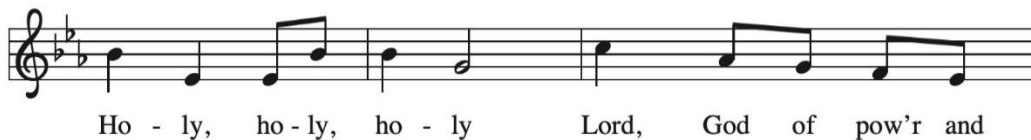
P: Lift up your hearts.

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution*

**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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

“As a Mother Comforts Her Child” (ACS 1015) (*piano*)

**As a mother comforts her child,
 so God will comfort you.
 As a hen gathers her brood,
 so Christ will gather you.
 As a wise one counsels her friend,
 so the Spirit will counsel you.
 The Trinity of love will be with you.**

“God Loved the World” ELW 323 (*organ*)

1. **God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save,
 That all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.**
2. **Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death;
 All who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.**

3. **If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.**
4. **Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son forgives all sins that you have done,
And justified by Jesus’ blood, your baptism grants the highest good.**
5. **All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.
C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618 (organ)*

1. **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**
3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner

Greeter: Lynette Hamilton

Reader: Mike Fenner

Usher: Pat Glyshaw

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & Mindy Carlson

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Marilyn Dichsen

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

Ken Devlin

Kelly Hartz

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 9, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Sunday, February 16, 9:30am: Worship

Newsletter Deadline

11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, February 19, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, February 20, 5:45pm: Church Council meeting

Saturday, February 22, 10:30am: Women of Faith Galentine's Party in Great Room

The altar plants are given today by the Dichsen family
in celebration of Benen's 16th birthday today

News Updates

Faith's Little Flock

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to healing including, why we rest on the Sabbath, Jesus raising the widow's son, exploring who Jesus is, and the healing power of forgiveness. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in February!

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke

Following worship, join Bishop Em. John Roth for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on its significance for us today.

Discipleship Group

It's that special time of year! ♥ Swing by the Faith Library at 10:00am on **Wednesday, February 19**, for a heartwarming chat all about LOVE and everything it brings. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com. Can't wait to see you there!

Women of Faith – Galentine's Day Tea Party

Join us on **Saturday, February 22 at 10:30am** in the Great Room at Faith for our 3rd annual Galentine's Day! This year we'll be having a fun tea party with tea, cakes, scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, a special craft. Gals of all ages are invited. Feel free to

invite friends to join you. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 12** to Monica at 217-737-0475.

Listening Session

The Council invites you to a meal and listening session following worship on **Sunday, February 23**. We will enjoy some good food and fellowship, then, at our tables, discuss some questions about our ministry, what ways we can help meet the needs of our congregation and community, and how we can involve all generations. Specific questions have been emailed out or are available to pick up on the counter by the coat closet. We're welcoming any and all helpers to clean up after the meal. Please **sign up** on the sheet by the coat closet if you plan to attend so we'll be sure to have enough food.

Meal Signup for Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

We are looking for volunteers to provide meals when our children and youth meet on Sunday evenings. The meal is served from 5:30-6:00pm at the end of Bible Boot Camp and beginning of our youth night. Plates and utensils are available in the kitchen, and you are welcome to cook or heat the meal there as well. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet located on the counter by the coat closet. Thank You!

Faith Inkubators

Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Future events are scheduled for Sundays, from 5:30-7:30**. The next date is **February 23**.

Bible Boot Camp

Last Fall, we introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children. Pastor Adam warms them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all join with parents and older youth for a meal. **Our next events will be held on Sundays, March 9 and 16, and April 6 and 13, from 4:30-6:00**. Spread the word and bring a friend!

End-of-Year Giving

For many years, Faith has designated money to be given to a variety of partners in ministry. This year, at our Annual Meeting, we approved \$20,000 to be shared. Below is a list of last year's recipients. **If you have a recommendation of a 501(c)3 recipient for this year, tell Patty Nelson (pattynelson1938@gmail.com) by the end of February.** (*cont'd*)

2024 Recipients: Hearts United in God's Service (HUGS), International Health and Development Network (IDHN), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western IL Youth Camp, YMCA, Faith Scholarship Fund, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Prairie Council on Aging, New Directions, St. Vincent DePaul, Jacksonville Food Center, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Faith mortgage.

Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are available in the gathering area.

Jacksonville Food Center (Souper) Bowl Food Drive

Let's continue to help the Jacksonville Area Food Center tackle hunger! Beginning Super Bowl Sunday (today!) and through the month of February, we will be collecting food items like soups, peanut butter and jelly, and Chef Boyardee. You can put your donations by the table under the working cross in the gathering area. Thank You!

Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with "*coffee*" designated in the memo area.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber

Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber will be in St. Louis on Friday, March 7. A few people from Faith are planning to go and would like to invite others to join them. Here's how Pastor Nadia describes the evening: "*I want to gather with you, laugh with you, and sing with you. I want to be revived from despair and from self-righteousness. I want us to remind each other of what's most important and least popular right now. Namely: humility, curiosity, mercy, and hope - the things Jesus of Nazareth yammered on about and that were as difficult to embrace then as they are now. In other words, I do not want to be afraid, and I do not want to be alone. So let's gather in the flesh and revive our weary hearts.*"

The event begins at 7:00pm. Carpooling is available. If you're interested in going or learning more, please contact Monica Proefrock at 217-737-0475. Tickets will be reserved on February 23rd so don't delay!