

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 7, 2021

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

*We Gather in God's Name . . .*

## PRELUDE

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*(for silent prayer during the prelude)*

Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and in your presence angels stand in awe. Enlarge our vision, that we may recognize your power at work in your Son and join the apostles and prophets as heralds of your saving word. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.<sup>1</sup> Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 147)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: **How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

One: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

All: **He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**

One: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

All: **The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**

One: Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

All: **The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Praise and worship the Lord.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" #387

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care; In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. Thou has promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and power to

free: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will; Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still; Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah describes God sitting above the circle of the earth looking down at its inhabitants, who appear as grasshoppers. He brings princes to naught. We, however, can boast of our accomplishments and our power. Let us consider our place against the Creator and confess the errors of our ways.

### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

### \*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, to whom can we compare you; who is your equal? Too often, Lord, we look upon ourselves and trust in our power and our accomplishments. We boast of what we can do. Other times, O Lord, we look at our world and its various leaders and place our primary trust in them. Yet other times, we look at institutions here on earth and displace our trust in you with trust in them. Forgive our sin, O Lord. Help us to always look to you as the Almighty, the Creator, and the Alpha and the Omega. We pray this in the name of the one who humbled himself and became obedient until death, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

While the Almighty is the everlasting and all-powerful God, he, also, gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Place your trust in God, repent, and be assured of his forgiveness. Amen.

### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*. . . to Proclaim God's Word*

FIRST READING                      Isaiah 40:21-31                      p. 668

EPISTLE READING                      1 Corinthians 9:16-23                      p. 171

\*GOSPEL READING                      Mark 1:29-39                      p. 35

SERMON                      "We Are Like Grasshoppers"                      Rev. Andy Smothers

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

### \*CONFESSION OF FAITH                      *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 83-85)

One: What are the keys of the kingdom?

Many: **The preaching of the holy gospel and Christian discipline toward repentance. Both of them open the kingdom of heaven to believers and close it to unbelievers.**

One: How does preaching the holy gospel open and close the kingdom of heaven?

Many: **According to the command of Christ: The kingdom of heaven is opened by proclaiming and publicly declaring to all believers, each and every one, that, as often as they accept the gospel promise in true faith, God, because of Christ's merit, truly forgives all their sins. The kingdom of heaven is closed, however, by proclaiming and publicly declaring to unbelievers and hypocrites that, as long as they do not repent, the wrath of God and eternal condemnation rest on them. God's judgment, both in this life and in the life to come, is based on this gospel testimony.**

One: How is the kingdom of heaven closed and opened by Christian discipline?

Many: **According to the command of Christ: Those who, though called Christians, profess unchristian teachings or live unchristian lives, and who after repeated personal and loving admonitions, refuse to abandon their errors and evil ways, and who after being reported to the church, that is, to those ordained by the church for that purpose, fail to respond also to the church's admonitions such persons the church excludes from the Christian community by withholding the sacraments from them, and God also excludes them from the kingdom of Christ. Such persons, when promising and demonstrating genuine reform, are received again as members of Christ and of his church.**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

One: Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name. You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on the earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people in Christ. Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are just and true. Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send us out in the

power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. By your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONFESSION

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*... to Give Thanks to God ...*

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

**Gracious God, you sent your Son to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven all throughout Israel. He disciplined a small group of people to continue the proclamation of his message to the ends of the earth, and some, descending from their work, came to disciple us in our day. In thankfulness for your work through humans such as us, we offer these tithes for your continued work on earth. Amen.**

*... and to Be Sent in God's Name.*

#### CLOSING HYMN: "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" #262

God of the ages, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; In this free land by Thee our lot is cast; Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay; Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

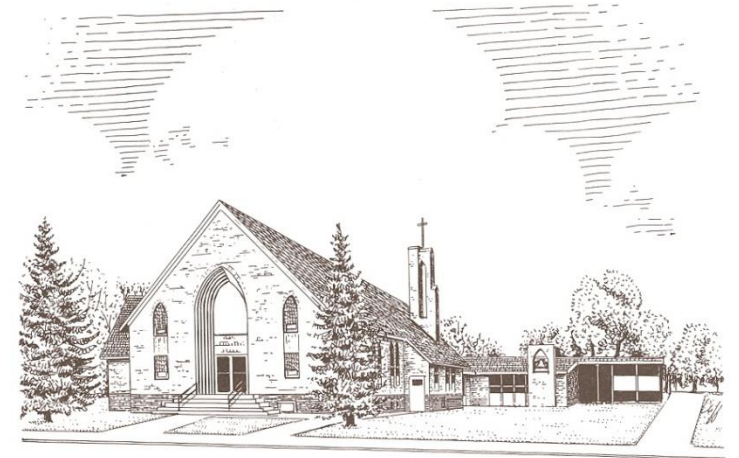
From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense; Thy true religion in our hearts increase; Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us from night to never ending day; Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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<sup>i</sup> Book of Common Worship, 210.