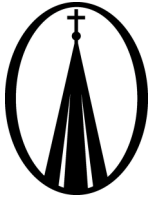


**St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill**  
**February 7, 2021 Epiphany 5**  
**Please tune to 87.9 FM**



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**INTRODUCTION**

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

**CONFESSION & 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.**

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **FIRST READING**

**ISAIAH 40:21-31**

<sup>21</sup>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? <sup>22</sup>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; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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"? <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>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.

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup> Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup> **who covers the heavens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup> God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup> **God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup> but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup> Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

## 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23

<sup>16</sup> 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! <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## GOSPEL

MARK 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>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.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>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." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## SERMON

Interim Pastor Greg Gaskamp

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Gather Us In (v 1, 3, 4)*

*Back page*

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 OF INTERCESSION**

*Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response*  
let us pray.     **Have mercy, O God.**

## **PEACE**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Ho-  
sanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;


broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter  keep you in peace. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**



IN OUR



# Thoughts and Prayers

## Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith	Janice Cordova	Sydney Wagner	Florence Bentke
Ella Ruemke	Clarence Witt	Gilbert Spinn	Helen Gaskamp
Emery Schulze	Cynthia Wilson	Verna Mae Sefcik	Linda King
Tom Bentke	Jerry Randermann	Mary Ann Luce	Connie Seward
Justin Reuter	Dorothy Wiesepepe	Andrew Schroeder	Dutch Schulze
Phyllis Bickham	Marvin Haevischer	A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp	
Peggy & Milton Bosse	John & Carol Haarmeyer	Clarence & Shirley Moehlmann	

**Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries:** Marjorie Hohlt, Canaan Wilkerson, Dorothy Haevischer, Trey Boeker, Kayden Patterson, Al Steinbach, Wesley Neuendorff, Steve Skrla

**Those celebrating wedding anniversaries:** Trey & Cathy Boeker, Gail & Shannon Mitschke

**Adult Bible Study with Jim Kite will resume today  
between services!**

**Next Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00AM Parking Lot Worship Service**

**9:00AM Sunday School**

**10:05AM Indoor Sanctuary Worship Service**

- Masks are required while inside the building.
- Appropriate social distancing guidelines are to be followed.

## REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Johanna Becker      prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com      979-836-8666 (church office)  
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm      Website: [www.stjohnnpairiehill.org](http://www.stjohnnpairiehill.org)

# Gather Us In

v (1, 3, 4)



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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