

Ante Communion Service Epiphany 5B February 7, 2021

Opening Hymn

Thou Whose Almighty Word

Scottish Festival Singers

*Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.*

*Thou, who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind, O now to humankind let there be light.*

*Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove, speed forth thy flight;
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.*

*Blessed and Holy Three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide let there be light.*

Celebrant Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A moment of silence for self-reflection

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

People

Gracious God, have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, and honor, and glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Celebrant Let us pray: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading **Isaiah 40:21-31**

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?
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;
who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
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.
To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
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.
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 strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

Laudate Dominum

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor. Hallelujah!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and every shall be. World without end. Amen.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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! 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. 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. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 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." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

Be Still My Soul

Acapeldridge

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side: bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide; in every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly friend, thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake, to guide the future, as he has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know, his voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on, when we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past. All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

Nicene Creed

Said by all.

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit,
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come
in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father
and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the peace and unity of the world;
That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;
And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For wisdom in this time of pandemic;
That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*
We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. **May they be filled with your love.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.**

Celebrant: While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

People: **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

Celebrant: Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

People: **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in you, among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Grace Comm Church Sun Valley CA

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace.*

*Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.*

*He breaks the pow'r of cancelling sin, he sets the pris'ner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.*

*Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosen'd tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Savior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

Dismissal

The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]

Acapeldridge

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