

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Lutheran Church, Lynn, MA

February 7, 2021



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.**

## Welcome to worship!

**Yes, *this is worship!*** It is not the way any of us *want* it to be, but God is alive and present in this virtual gathering. God's work will still speak to us through the Holy Spirit, and we are still the Body of Christ, joined together in a fellowship of love, even if it is not in person.

## Create a sacred space in your home.

Light a candle. Pour yourself a warm beverage. Welcome the presence of God into your dwelling. Set aside this time for worship as if you were in church. Put away the cell phone (unless you are watching on your cell phone!) Adopt a posture of prayer that works for you.

## GATHERING

### The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

#### PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL  
Franklin Ashdown

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*We begin our worship by freeing ourselves from the baggage we have carried around this week.*

*It is liberating to admit that we are not perfect people, and to know that we have a God who loves and accepts us unconditionally.*

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.**

## GATHERING HYMN

The minister announces God's forgiveness, to which the assembly responds:  
**Amen.**

*Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,  
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.





## God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 40:21-31

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

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

### Psalm 147

*The psalms were the original prayer book of God's people and capture the full gamut of human emotion.*

*The cantors sing the refrain, which is repeated by the assembly. The cantors sing the verses.*

Praise the Lord, who heals the bro - ken -  
heart - ed, praise the Lord, who  
heals the bro - ken - heart - ed.

1. How good to sing psalms to our God; how pleasant to chant fitting praise! The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles.
2. He heals the broken-hearted; he binds up all their wounds. He counts out the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name.
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord lifts up the lowly; he casts down the wicked to the ground.

## SECOND READING

### 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.*

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 ACCLAMATION

*We stand to welcome Christ, the living word of God, in the gospel reading.*



*Verse:* The right hand of God raised me up.  
The hand of the Lord has triumphed.  
I shall never die, I shall live, telling God's deeds!

## GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As soon as Jesus and the 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, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**We stand** to proclaim  
the word of God in  
song.

*Healer of Our Every Ill*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is  
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.



## APOSTLES CREED

*The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo which simply means "I believe."*

*By professing our faith with these ecumenical words, we are one with Christians all around the world, no matter what else might divide us.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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.**

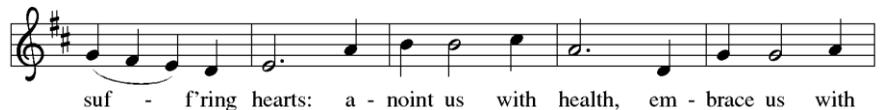
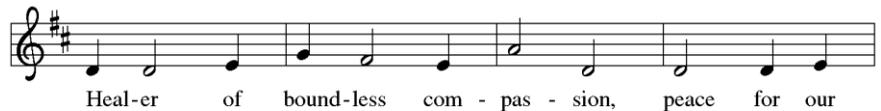
**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

*After each petition:*

We pray to you, \_\_\_\_\_ God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

*As we pray, we sing this refrain:*



## OFFERTORY

*You are invited to make your offering online at [www.flc-lynn.org/give](http://www.flc-lynn.org/give) or by mail. Please continue to give during this time to support the ongoing ministry of our congregation.*

*I Lift My Eyes*  
Taylor Davis

I lift my eyes to the hills.  
From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord.  
The Lord will not let your foot be moved,  
The Lord who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, the One who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The Lord is your keeper, the shade on your right hand.  
By day the sun won't smite you, nor the moon by night.  
The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
The Lord will keep your life from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.



# SENDING

## God blesses us and sends us in mission for the world

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

*I Love to Tell the Story*



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Be at peace. Shine with the light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God**

*Grand Choeur*  
G.F. Handel

## Join us for virtual coffee hour!

At **11:30 AM** (or shortly after worship concludes) you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us on Zoom for a virtual coffee hour! If your computer has a camera and you'd like to use video chat, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484060366> and follow the instructions. You may need to install a free piece of software. If you would like to call in on your phone, dial **(929) 205-6099** and enter meeting ID **884 8406 0366**. It won't be as good as the Fireside Room, but it will allow us to check in!

**All voting members are encouraged to join us for our *Virtual Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 14 at 11:45 AM on Zoom!*** Zoom meetings can be joined either by telephone (which simply involves dialing a phone number) or via a device such as a smartphone or computer that has a video camera. This usually involves installing a free app. It may sound complicated, but those who use it regularly attest to how simple it is once you try it. Both Pr. Jon and Karin Butterworth are willing to practice with anyone who would like to try joining a Zoom meeting to be sure they can connect on February 14. If you would like to do this, please reach out via e-mail or phone! The link to connect to the meeting will be e-mailed this week. To connect by phone, dial **1-929-205-6099**. When prompted, enter the meeting code **893 9155 0809** followed by the # key.

## MUSIC NOTES

Today's prelude is based on the melody of our hymn of the day, *Healer of Our Every Ill*. Marty Haugen (b. 1950), a prolific American composer, wrote both the text and the melody of this hymn. The postlude is an organ transcription of a movement from G. F. Handel's (1685 – 1759) oratorio *Joshua*. Though Handel is most often associated with English music, he was born in Germany (within a few weeks and a few miles from J.S. Bach) and had professional positions in Germany and Italy before settling in England in 1712. After arriving in England, Handel quickly became one of the most well-known and successful composers of his generation. Although he is most known for his operas and oratorios, Handel wrote a vast amount of music, including a wide variety of instrumental music.

### FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

280 Broadway, Lynn, MA 01904

Church: 781-598-0481 Parsonage: 781-584-6631

<http://www.flc-lynn.org> | [facebook.com/flclynn](https://www.facebook.com/flclynn)

The Rev. Jon Niketh, *Pastor*  
David Greatrix, *Director of Music Ministry*  
Jack King and Patrice Cunningham, *Sextons*  
Karin Butterworth, *Council President*

[pastor@flclynn.org](mailto:pastor@flclynn.org)  
[music@flclynn.org](mailto:music@flclynn.org)  
[pjfamily5@verizon.net](mailto:pjfamily5@verizon.net)  
[karinbutterworth1@gmail.com](mailto:karinbutterworth1@gmail.com)



***We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation,  
welcoming and serving all people.***