

Together With Faith We Can:
Connect, Grow and Serve



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022

9:30

As We Gather

At the beginning of the Church Year, many sang the hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas." Indeed, the Bible says, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son" (John 3:16). It is only on Good Friday, however, that we discover the depth and power of God's love in the cross of the Lord's death. And so it was that ever since the beginning of His earthly ministry, after His Baptism, we are given clear hints about the true nature of God's love. Initially people marveled at Jesus' preaching and miraculous healings. Yet not only did the crowds quickly reject our Lord, but Satan also was actively opposing Him from the beginning. The love of God is the power of God to defeat Satan and free the world from the grip of sin and death. The standard of love is the cross of Christ. In today's Epistle, Paul describes love in and through Christ. Substitute "Christ" for "love" and you get, "Christ is patient and kind; Christ does not envy or boast; . . . Christ rejoices with the truth." This love of Christ is given to us and through us. "Faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these" is the cross of Christ!

Prelude

Opening Hymn 537

"Beautiful Savior"

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**
- 3 **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be Thine!**

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

John 1:10–12

P Jesus Christ was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

C **yet the world did not know Him.**

P He came to His own,

C **and His own people did not receive Him.**

P But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name,

C **He gave the right to become children of God.**

Confession and Absolution

John 1:14

P God has come to us to make us His own children. Let us confess our sins of unbelief that He may give us faith to receive Him and His love.

C **O God, we confess that we have ignored Your voice and Spirit by choosing to go our own way. Without You, we are lost and confused and without hope. Without You, we do not know love. Come now to us and forgive our waywardness and weakness. Give us Your gifts of faith, hope, and love. Receive us again into the family of Your redeemed. Amen.**

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 10:16–18; antiphon: v. 12

P Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted. The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 1:4–10

R ⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." ⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:31b—13:13

R I will show you a still more excellent way.

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 4:31–44

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

A ³¹[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm.

³⁶And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. ³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. ⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." ⁴⁴And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn 842

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

- 1 **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, for Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity, heal our wrongs, and help our need.**
- 2 **As You, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty held in solemn trust will be.**
- 3 **Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, by Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, stem our selfish greed of gain.**
- 4 **Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing that Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth Your will be done.**

Sermon

Nicene Creed

- C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke**

by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 535

"How Wide the Love of Christ"

**1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity within its broad embrace.**

**2 How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound in everlasting peace.**

**3 How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives unmeasured mercy pours.**

**4 How deep the love of Christ, descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands all human pain and loss.**

**5 All praise to You, O Christ, for love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space with endless life and light!**

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Please pray for: Terry Carlson, recovering from surgery this week.

St. Mark family continuing medical care, undergoing treatment or in need of prayer:

Arnie and Pat Abrelat, Terry Carlson, Amanda Cortez, Nathan Erickson, Betty Havermans, Brenda Hoisington, Clare Kersting, Gary Meister, Larry Miller, Sally Mitchell, Sue Neuman, Allison Plumhoff, Norbert Scholle, and Minda Smith.

Pray for St. Mark members who reside in assisted living facilities: Margaret Boehm at Christian Care (S. Sheridan Road), and Ray Boomer and Lizz VanNoordwyk at American House.

Please pray for family and friends:

Deb Guilbault, sister-in-law of Tami Sheehy

Sue Swanson, sister, and **Carol Weaver**, friend of Carolyn Bickmeyer

Vivian Hayes, sister-in-law of Linda Hayes and Pam Bruining

Sandra Stuemke, sister of Larry and Gloria Miller

Huck Breen, brother-in-law, and **Olivia Gillespie**, friend of Gary and Kathleen Schottke

Robert Council, son of Carolyn Council and brother of Becky Council and Belinda (Bruce) Schouten

Jody Hoppus, sister of Jim (Melinda) Hoppus

Joy Chalko, sister, and **Gary Monson**, brother-in-law of Renee Schaab

Sheila Bluhm, daughter of Lois Bluhm

Janet and Cliff Havey, sister and brother-in-law of Larry and Cindy Bolduc

Roger Miller, cousin of Larry (Gloria) Miller, Kay (Tim) Schouten and Jean (Tony) Hladki

Barb Ruckle, niece of Carol (Mike) Sutton

William and Jonie Guerne, grandson and daughter-in-law of Dick (Lynne) Guerne

Doris Franks, sister of Ardy Bulthouse

Pastor Anthony Sikora, former Pastor in Dewitt of Steve and Holly Lowney

Patti, sister of Cherié (Duane) Wentzloff

Keith Brady, son of Pat Brady

Lee Suits, friend of Sandy Hosko

Marty Hall, cousin of Gail Whittaker and Judy Yonker

Rick Gilbert, brother-in-law of Gerry and Karen VanOeffelen

Doris VanDyke, friend of Judy Yonker

***Terry Holmes**, brother-in-law of Jack Brewer

***David Lutz**, nephew of Mary Bishop

***Emma Meister**, granddaughter of Gary and Cindy Meister

* *indicates new or updated request*