

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The *Jesus Club*?
February 3 & 4, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Everyone is trying to figure out who they are, to identify themselves to everyone around them, and to promote that identity. Our Lord knows exactly who He is and what He has come to accomplish. He opens our eyes so that we may come to know and define ourselves not according to the whims of time or the dictates of emotion but in Him. Sin must give way to His forgiveness, unrighteousness to His righteousness, and death to His life. We are not competing with the world for a reward but serving others as Christ has served us. Our identity in Christ will not be taken from us and as long as we live in this identity, we are free. That liberty is primarily shown by our willingness to serve.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

8:00 PRESERVICE MUSIC *"Rigaudon"* *by Andre Campra*

WELCOME

In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said,
"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding
and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

Luke 10:21

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #837 **"Lift High the Cross"**

Refrain *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be;
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: I have trusted in your steadfast love;

People: **my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **O most merciful God, who has given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

5:00

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

8:00 Martin Luther Choir "Star of the East"

10:30 Martin Luther Troubadours "Alpha and Omega"

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Lord, you have granted us a new identity and life in Christ, our Lord. Keep us, we pray, in this faith and life in Christ that we may know with confidence we belong to you and live secure in this knowledge both now and forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with you and the Holy Spirit, are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM SONG #605 "Father Welcomes"

**Refrain: Father welcomes all His children To His fam'ly through His Son.
Father giving His salvation, Life forever has been won.**

Little children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. *Refrain*

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured;
Those who are baptized and believe Shall be born again. *Refrain*

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him.
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. *Refrain*

5:00 BAPTISM of Angela Violeta Paskiewicz

Page 268

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 40:21–31* (He brings us out and calls us by name.) ²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² 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 dwell in; ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ 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"? ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 9:16–27* (I do it all for the sake of the Gospel.)

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ 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 not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 ANTHEM *“Anima Mea”*

10:30 ANTHEM *“Goodness of God”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 1:29–39* (Everyone was looking for Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed 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. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’ S MESSAGE

“Let Me Learn of Jesus”

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me
Once He died to save me, nailed upon the tree.

When I go to Jesus, He will hear me pray
Make me pure and holy, take my sins away.

Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,
Looking down upon me From His throne above.

Oh, how good is Jesus! May He hold my hand
And at last receive me To a better land.

SERMON HYMN #585 “Lord Jesus Christ With Us Abide”

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, For round us falls the eventide.
O let your Word, that saving light, Shine forth undimmed into the night.

In these last days of great distress Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent your holy Word and Sacrament.

To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine your Word of saving grace Into each dark and loveless place.

May glorious truths that we have heard, The bright sword of your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that your Church be strong, Bold, unified in act and song.

Restrain, O Lord, the human pride That seeks to thrust your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things Would dim the words your Spirit sings.

Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true; Preserve our faith our whole life through
Your Word alone our heart's defense, The Church's glorious confidence.

SERMON

(Rise)

8:00 & 10:30 NICENE CREED

People: 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.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

8:00 VOLUNTARY - Martin Luther Brass *"A Mighty Fortress"*

10:30 VOLUNTARY – Troubadours *"I'm So Blessed"*

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We give thanks to you, dear Father, for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh to preach the Gospel and cast out the works of Satan and the corruption of sin, which we could not overcome. By your Word, rescue us from every evil of body and soul. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, give joy to your servants on whom you have laid the necessity to preach the Gospel, that many would be saved in every nation and that together we may share in the blessings of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-knowing God, we thank you for Martin Luther High School and how you are present among them. There they are able to learn about you, and your creation. We also thank you for their Choir's and Band's, as you have blessed us through their gift of music. We ask that they may bless many other congregations, as they continue sharing the talents and abilities you have given them. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, give to all Christian homes the endurance that comes from your Holy Spirit, that husbands and wives, parents and children may be disciplined and self-controlled in their duties, run their course in this life, and continue to the end in the holy Christian faith, ready to receive the imperishable wreath of eternal life. We especially lift up to you Jeff and Francheliz as they continue to raise Angela Violeta Paskiewicz, who has been baptized this weekend. We thank you for washing away her sins, and bringing her into your family. Be with them Lord, as they continue to raise her to know you and your mercies. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, Creator of the world and its foundations, you hold sway over the powers of nature and the rulers of the earth. Graciously preserve our land, its produce and industry, and our leaders together with our people. Do not disregard us for our sins, but renew us, that our lives may be peaceful and our country governed according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, your Son is the Great Physician of body and soul, at whose hand demon, disease and every ill must turn away. We bring before you those in any need especially Margie, Anna, Jim, Eugene, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Cindy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy Father, where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. Bring us in faith to your Holy Sacrament, that the blood of Christ, which atoned for our sins, may make us whole, strengthen us against every spiritual attack of the devil, turn us in love toward our neighbor, and preserve us in body and soul to life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

8:00 & 10:30 THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

8:00 Martin Luther Choir *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

10:30 Troubadours *"Shout to the Lord"*

All Services HYMN #684 "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary"

"Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest."

O Blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!

It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,

Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.

"Come unto Me, ye wand'ers, And I will give you light."

O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night!

Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way;

But Thou hast brought us gladness And songs at break of day.

"Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life."

O Cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!

The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long;

But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.

“And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

All Services HYMN #399 “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here”

The star proclaims the King is here; But, Herod, why this senseless fear?
For He who offers heav’nly birth Seeks not the kingdoms of this earth.

The eastern sages, saw from far And followed on His guiding star;
And, led by light, to light they trod And by their gifts confessed their God.

Within the Jordan’s sacred flood The heav’nly Lamb in meekness stood
That He, of whom no sin was known, Might cleanse His people from their own.

And oh, what miracle divine, When water reddened into wine!
He spoke the word, and forth it flowed In streams that nature ne’er bestowed.

For this Thy glad epiphany All glory, Jesus, be to Thee,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit evermore.

5:00 HYMN #691 “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Lord, in your great love you have brought us from death to life, forgiven all our sins, and made us your children. Grant to us not only the healing of the ills of this life but the perfect healing of everlasting life, which we have tasted already in this blessed Communion. Deliver us from pride and arrogance and build within us a servant’s heart, that we may love you above all things and our neighbor as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #785 “We Praise You, O God”

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our father, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

8:00 POSTLUDE

“March” by J.S. Bach

Preacher	Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Liturgist	Pastor Harold Bender
Lectors	Russell Hurst, Miriam Richardson, Krystal Wilson
Organist	Deaconess Carole King

Martin Luther Directors:

Benjamin Bedroske, Choir Director
Jessica Kindschi Walter, Instrumental Director
Andrae B Dukes, Troubadour Director