

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

A Most Important Question

January 14 & 15, 2023

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus asked His two potential disciples what they were seeking, it was a most important question. People look for power and importance for themselves, relief from certain circumstances, and a host of other agenda items. But our Lord came with one overarching goal: He was needed as light for this dark world (as Isaiah wrote) and the only one who could take away the sin of the world (as John the Baptist announced). After seeking Christ's help in our sinful condition, we hear that other great question, "Who do you say that I am?"—and when each of us answers it, then, as Paul told the Church in Corinth, we have all the spiritual gifts we need to ask the people around us, "What are you seeking?"

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.

WELCOME

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples,
which are not written in this book;
but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:30-31

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
God-head, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.

People: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Pastor: It is too light a thing that you should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob. . . .

People: I will make you as a light for the nations.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: We have been called into the fellowship of His Son and been given the gift of faith. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.
Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our only source of forgiveness and peace,

People: give us strength to confess our sins and faith to rely on your mercy in time and for eternity;

Pastor: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 49:1–7* (God’s Servant is to be light for the nations.) Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.”⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 1:1–9* (God is faithful; He called you into the fellowship of His Son.) Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:³Grace to you

and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM "Little Child of Love"

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:29–42a* (Jesus invites two disciples to stay with Him.)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and

followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"God is So Good"

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He's so good to me.

I'll do His will, I'll do His will, I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

He loves me so, He loves me so, He loves me so, He's so good to me.

SERMON HYMN #555 "Salvation Unto Us Has Come"

Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom, They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

What God did in His Law demand And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

It was a false, misleading dream That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

From sin our flesh could not abstain, Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain, Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart Or purify our guileful heart-
So deep is our corruption.

Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.

Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead, Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

SERMON "A Three M Production. M & M & M"
Isaiah 49:1-7

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
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.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us lift prayers to the throne of God's grace, in the name of the Rock
of our salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silence for time of personal prayer and intercession

Pastor: Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise that you formed your Son
in the womb of your servant Mary to be a light for the nations. Preserve
that light among your people. Gather us around your Word and
Sacraments, enlighten and strengthen us by your grace, and grant that
we might reflect the light of Christ to those around us. Lord, in your
mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, bless and prosper the work of missionaries all
around the world, especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor
Chuck Ferry and family. Fill them with zeal, empower them by your
Spirit, and make them bold witnesses of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of glory, the heavens declare your handiwork, and each day and
night testify to your majesty. Bless all teachers and students, that in
their explorations of the arts and sciences they may see your creativity
and glorify you. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, you have formed and fashioned the family by your
design. Watch over the homes of your people. Bless them with all that
they need for this body and life, and preserve them in the glad confidence
that Christ is their strength and their salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy God, your Son consented to be the servant of rulers and subjected
Himself to their authority, enduring the cross so that He might redeem
the world. Fortify all in authority with courage and wisdom to govern
justly, and cultivate penitent hearts among them so that they may
gladly humble themselves before their Redeemer both now and on the
Last Day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy God, your Son became the Lamb of God to take away all of our sins and infirmities by His death and resurrection. Remember all who are in need of your help and healing especially Audrey, Noah, Joyce, Kaden, Guy, Marga, Cheryl, Tim, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Debra, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Gloria, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Vern, Dorothy, Cindy, Helga, Carol, Debbie, June, Jerry Shirley and Sarah. Deliver them according to your merciful will, and preserve them in the certainty that their sins are taken away. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, John the Baptist first revealed your incarnate Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world by the sacrifice of His body and blood on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who receive that same body and blood of our resurrected Savior this day, that they would welcome Him in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Grant that we who have celebrated the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by his forerunner; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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

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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

HYMN #637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

HYMN #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiven, Joy that lifts the soul to heaven,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

HYMN #702 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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,

**People: 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;**

Pastor: 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 as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Celebrant
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Nabil Nour
Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Jodi Drew, Katie Scepanski, Krystal Wilson
Olivia Kukor