

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Mark Sedio)*

MEDITATION

The Hill We Climb *Amanda Gorman*

Mr. President, Dr. Biden,
Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff,
Americans and the world:

When day comes we ask ourselves
where can we find light in this never-ending
shade?

The loss we carry asea we must wade.
We've braved the belly of the beast.
We've learned that quiet isn't always peace.
In the norms and notions of what just is
isn't always justice.

And yet, the dawn is ours before we knew it.
Somehow we do it.
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken, but simply
unfinished.

We, the successors of a country
and a time where a skinny black girl
descended from slaves
and raised by a single mother
can dream of becoming president
only to find herself reciting for one.

And yes, we are far from polished,
far from pristine,
but that doesn't mean
we are striving to form a union that is perfect.
We are striving to forge our union with
purpose.

To compose a country committed
to all cultures, colors, characters,
and conditions of man.

And so we lift our gazes
not to what stands between us,

but what stands before us.
We close the divide
because we know to put our future first,
we must first put our differences aside.
We lay down our arms
so we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all.

Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried
that will forever be tied together victorious.

Not because we will never again know defeat,
but because we will never again sow division.
Scripture tells us to envision
that everyone shall sit
under their own vine and fig tree
and no one shall make them afraid.

If we're to live up to her own time,
then victory won't lie in the blade,
but in all the bridges we've made.
That is the promise to glade,
the hill we climb if only we dare.

It's because being American
is more than a pride we inherit.
It's the past we step into
and how we repair it.
We've seen a forest that would shatter our nation
rather than share it.
Would destroy our country
if it meant delaying democracy.

This effort very nearly succeeded.

But while democracy can be periodically delayed,
it can never be permanently defeated.
In this truth, in this faith we trust
for while we have our eyes on the future,
history has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.
We feared it at its inception.
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
of such a terrifying hour,
but within it,
we found the power to author a new chapter,
to offer hope and laughter
to ourselves so while once we asked,
how could we possibly prevail over
catastrophe?
Now we assert,
how could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was,
but move to what shall be
a country that is bruised, but whole,
benevolent, but bold,
fierce, and free.

We will not be turned around
or interrupted by intimidation
because we know our inaction and inertia
will be the inheritance of the next generation.
Our blunders become their burdens.

But one thing is certain,
if we merge mercy with might
and might with right,
then love becomes our legacy
and change our children's birthright.

So let us leave behind a country better
than one we were left with.
Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest
we will raise this wounded world
into a wondrous one.

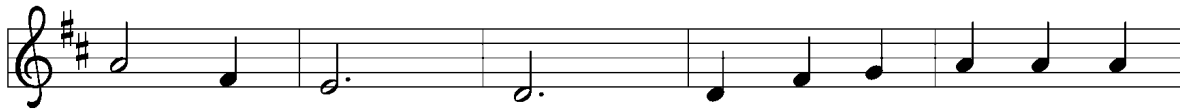
We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the West.
We will rise from the wind-swept Northeast
where our forefathers first realized revolution.
We will rise from the Lake Rim cities of the
Midwestern states.
We will rise from the sun-baked South.
We will rebuild, reconcile
and recover in every known nook of our nation,
in every corner called our country
our people diverse and beautiful
will emerge battered and beautiful.

When day comes,
we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid.
The new dawn blooms as we free it.
For there is always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.

GATHERING SONG: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

GREETING/ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

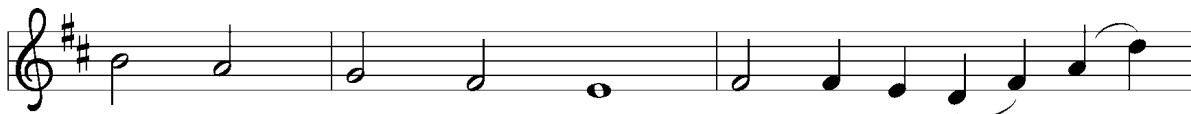
Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* (ELW 848)



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE WORD: Luke 5:1-11 - Ho Brown

¹Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Word of God,
word of life.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: *This Little Light of Mine (Batstone Girls)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON: *Roger Steinke*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore* (ELW 817)



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *Thorin Freriks*

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - *Brian Helper and Tamara McIntyre*

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith, especially Lillian, whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY: *Valsa Sem Nome*
Alain Adjorlolo, Guitar

OFFERING PRAYER - *Marilyn Iverson*

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER - Gordy Phelps

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✝ keep you in peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rise Up! Shine! Walk in the Light*

1 Rise up! Shine! Your light has come.
2 Bring him gold and spices rare.
3 We have seen his star so bright.

Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Glo - ry dawns on ev - 'ry - one.
Praise his glo - ry ev - 'ry - where.
Come and wor - ship with de - light.

Je - sus, the Light of the world.

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light,
come where the dew - drops of mer - cy are bright.
Shine all a - round us by day and by night,
Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Isaiah 60:1, 6; Matthew 2:2, para. Daniel Schwandt; George D. Elderkin, refrain

Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, traditional, arr. George D. Elderkin, alt.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Glory Be to God on High (J. Walther)*

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