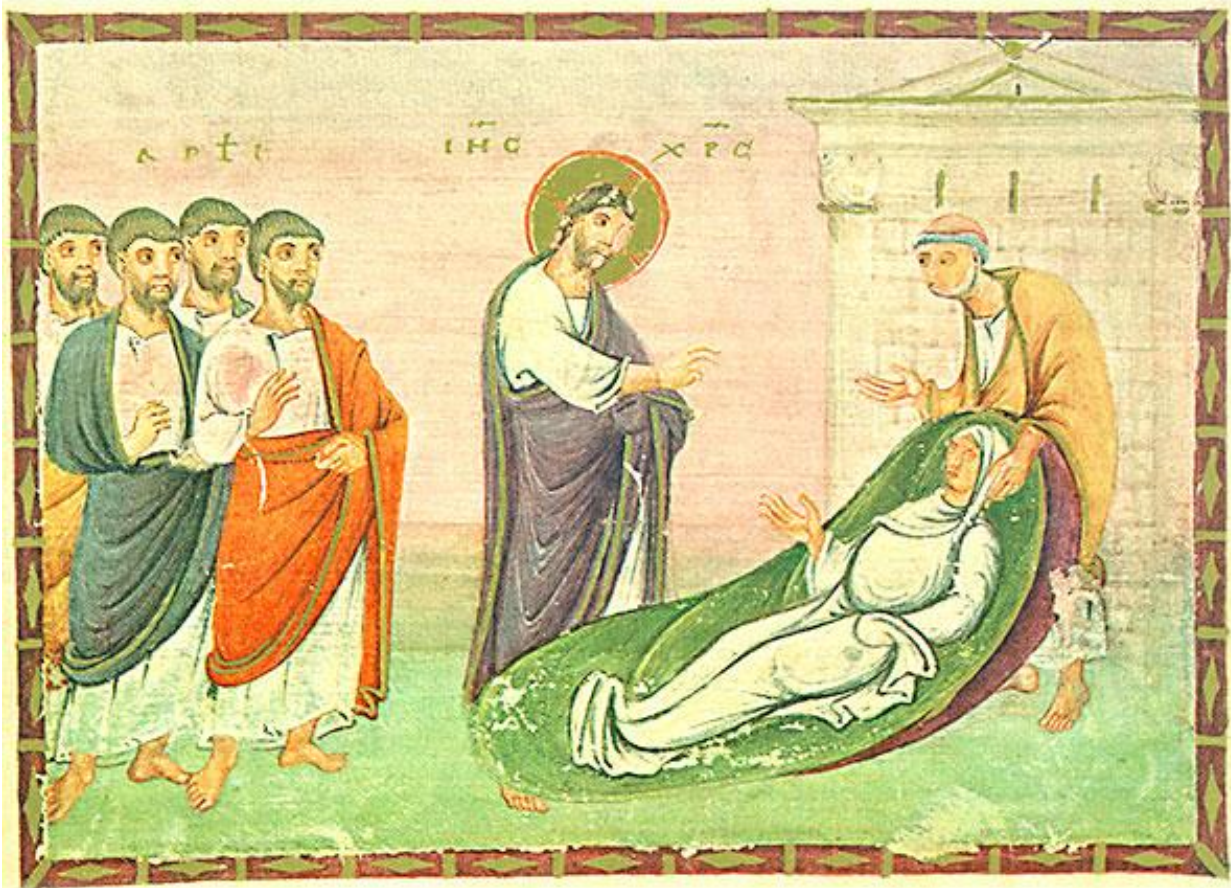


# The Season after Epiphany

February 4, 2024 † The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany



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 (*diakonia*). 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.

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who have not been boosted, cannot be vaccinated, are at higher risk, or simply prefer to do so.



Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

**Welcome** to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

**Welcome** to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

**Welcome.**



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at [ebenezerchurch.org](http://ebenezerchurch.org).



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



**Restrooms** are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



**Children** are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A nursery is available (the attendant is vaccinated, boosted, and masked). A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



**Holy Communion**, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

**Acknowledgments:** Liturgical Material reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*. *NRSV Bible*, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. [onelicense.net](http://onelicense.net) A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Christ Healing Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law*. Germany, 10<sup>th</sup> cent.

**All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and a time of learning and fellowship. The Nursery remains staffed during this time.**

## Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Courante in f minor G.F. Handel



## Greeting

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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint.  
Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made  
known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### The First Reading            Isaiah 40:21-31

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:1-11

The Cantor sings the refrain; all repeat it.

**Refrain:**

The verses are sung responsively and the refrain by all.



Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises <sup>1</sup> to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor <sup>1</sup> God with praise!

**The Lord re- <sup>1</sup> builds Jerusalem, and gathers the ex- <sup>1</sup> iles of Israel.**

The Lord heals the <sup>1</sup> brokenhearted and binds <sup>1</sup> up their wounds.

**The Lord counts the number <sup>1</sup> of the stars and calls them all <sup>1</sup> by their names.**

**Refrain**

Great is our Lord and might- <sup>1</sup> y in power; there is no limit <sup>1</sup> to God's wisdom.

**The Lord lifts <sup>1</sup> up the lowly, but casts the wicked <sup>1</sup> to the ground.**

Sing to the Lord <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp <sup>1</sup> to our God,

**who covers the heav- <sup>1</sup> ens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- <sup>1</sup> on the mountains. Refrain**

God provides food <sup>1</sup> for the cattle and for the young ravens <sup>1</sup> when they cry.

**God is not impressed by the might <sup>1</sup> of a horse,**

**and has no pleasure in the speed <sup>1</sup> of a runner,**

but finds pleasure in those who <sup>1</sup> fear the Lord,

in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! **Refrain**

The Second Reading First Corinthians 9:16-23

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Rise in body or spirit.*

### Welcoming the Gospel



The Gospel

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Mark 1:29-39

**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 sunset, 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastoral Intern Melissa Dailey

*Silence for reflection follows.*



Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me  
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger

stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
near; when my life is al - most gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the  
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I

light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey



**Creed** *The Apostles Creed, the church's most ancient, developed from early baptismal rites. Father is original to this text. Other forms of address may be used.*

Let us confess the faith of the church:

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Children's Message**

**Prayers of Intercession** *The response to each intercession is: **Hear our prayer.***

## Meal

**Peace** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about whether touch is welcomed.*

Check your neighbor's name tag:

A **yellow square** indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred.

A **red circle** indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.



For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.



*Please be seated.*

**Offertory** O Quam Gloriosum The Ebenezer Choir  
Tomás Luis de Victoria

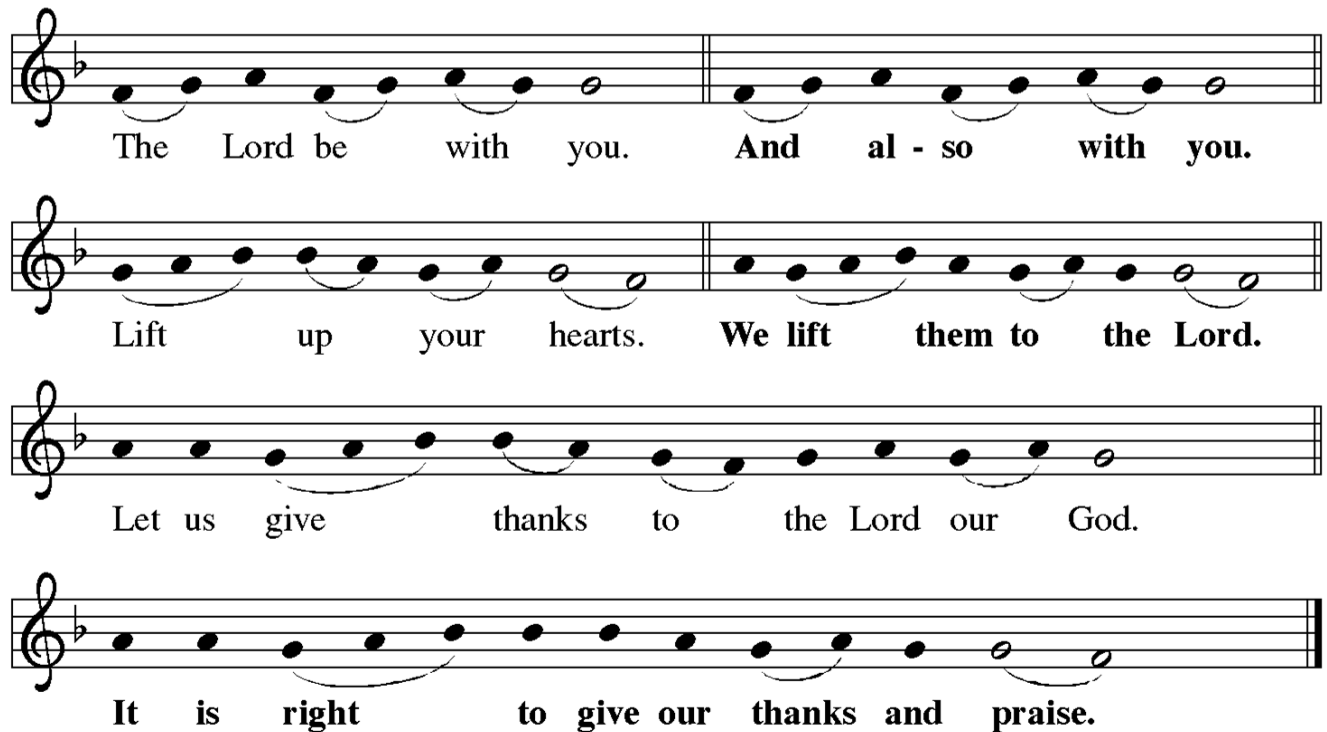
O quam gloriosum est regnum,  
in quo cum Christo gaudent omnes Sancti!  
Amicti stolis albis,  
sequuntur Agnum, quocumque ierit.

*O how glorious is the kingdom  
in which all the saints rejoice with Christ,  
clad in robes of white  
they follow the Lamb wherever he goes.*

*Rise in body or spirit.*



Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface and Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord



Ho - ly,  
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
hea - ven and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Ho san - na in the high - est!  
Blest is the One who

»

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Ho san - na in the high - est!

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer *You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.*

**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 the Table

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. All are welcome at God's table.

*Please be seated.*



All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine** or **white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.



### Agnus Dei Lamb of God

Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world. Have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world. Have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world.  
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Instrumental Fugue in f minor G.F. Handel

Hymn Your Word, O Lord, Is Gentle Dew

1 Your word, O Lord, is gen - tle dew to suf - f'ring  
2 Your word is like a flam - ing sword, a sharp and  
3 Your word, a won - drous star, sup - plies true guid - ance

hearts that want it; oh, shed your heav'n-ly balm a - new, to all your  
might - y ar - row, a wedge that cleaves the rock; that word can pierce through  
when we need it; it points to Christ and so makes wise all sim - ple

gar - den grant it; re-freshed by you, may ev - 'ry tree bud forth and  
heart and mar - row. Oh, send it forth o'er all the earth, to purge un -  
hearts that heed it; let not its light e'er sink in night, but keep it

blos - som gai - ly and fruit and seed bring dai - ly.  
righ - teous leav - en and cleanse all hearts for heav - en.  
bright-ly burn - ing, and fill our deep - est yearn - ing.

Text: Carl B. Garve, 1763–1841; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
Music: AF HIMLENS, *Koralpsalmboken*, Stockholm, 1697

Hymn

On Eagle's Wings *The Cantor sings the verses. All sing the refrain.*



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



*Refrain*

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



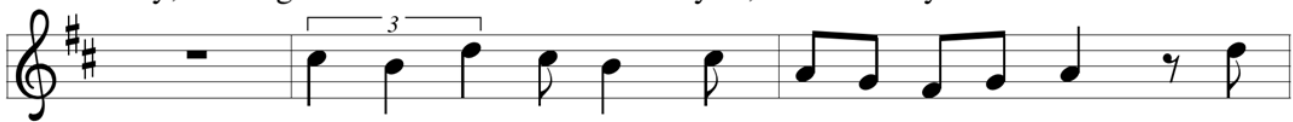
fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.





And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.  
And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957  
Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas

*Rise in body or spirit.*

## Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**



## Sending

### Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us with grace and mercy.  
May God look upon us with favor, ✠ and give us peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Dismissal

Go in peace, taken by the hand and lifted up.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Menuetto in G G.F. Handel

