



*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.*

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 7, 2021

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Clair de Lune, Op. 54 no. 5 (from *Pièces de Fantaisie*)
Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Louis Vierne was the organist for Notre Dame de Paris from the age of 30 until the end of his life. Born with cataracts that eventually made him completely blind by middle age, he lived a difficult life, with health problems and personal tragedy affecting him deeply. The organ at Notre Dame was in a constant state of disrepair, and this led to him taking a long concert tour to the United States in order to raise funds for repairs. The *Pièces de Fantaisie*, Opp. 51, 53-55, is a set of four suites that were written primarily for this tour, and many of the pieces were premiered during the trip. The suites each contain 6-7 different movements, and consist of independent free works in a variety of styles, often with some sort of programmatic concept. *Clair de Lune* is a mood piece that conveys the light of the moon and the stillness of a beautiful night with the same sort of impressionistic writing and effectiveness that Claude Debussy accomplished in the piano composition of the same name.

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.
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on
earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line after the final staff.

GREETING AND 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.

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 and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

A reading from Isaiah.

²¹Have 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?

²²It 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;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely 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.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift 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.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have 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.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 147:3

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¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The Lord re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

³The Lord heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴**The Lord counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names. REFRAIN**

⁵Great is our Lord and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The Lord lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the Lord| with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,
⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds**
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- |
on the mountains. REFRAIN
⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,**
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,
¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the Lord,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c}| Hallelujah! **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁶If 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! ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸What 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.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To 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. ²¹To 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. ²²To 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. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.



Cantor: The servant of God took | our infirmities*
and bore | our diseases. (Matt. 8:17)

GOSPEL: Mark I:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And 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.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He 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.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray, praying as a people gathered together before the Holy One, the Holy Gd.

On this day, Holy Gd, during this time, we pray that the Spirit of light and life will rise and shine in our hearts. By the brightness and the rightness of that presence, guide us continually in the way that is good for us to know, the way that is good for us to take on - with bravery and trust.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Gd, cast the light of truth against the dark and dangerous matters of these days. As you in Xp have entered the human story so may we enter the events of our day, holding to the wisdom and witness that it is a generous grace that brings the healing of peace and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Gd, let us not be discouraged or distracted by the missteps and misspeakings we may sense in ourselves or see all around. But give focus and courage to all hearts, that in our walk and conversation, in our politics and policies we become people of forgiveness and compassion in every word and deed.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Stir us Holy Gd by the wonders we have known and heard of earth and stars and all creation. Stir us to be in awe of what has been made and what yet may be evolving and growing. Stir us that we respond with renewed readiness to take our own place and bring forth our own participation in your flow of life and time.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Gd, hold in your safe keeping those we know and love, those we would name and all those known and loved by you. As we continue to become aware of the many that have died, we pray heal the broken hearted, bind up their wounds. Comfort those who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

And finally, Holy Gd, we again pray as we await your steadfast love, that the spirit of light and life illumine our days and fit us to celebrate in freedom and joy and thanksgiving the rightness and coming completion of all you have made

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Chancel Choir

Rise, Shine!
Dale Wood (1924-2003)

In today's Gospel and throughout the Epiphany season that details Jesus's Earthly ministry, we hear about the many instances of Jesus healing the sick and driving out demons. Our anthem based on the familiar and rousing tune, joyfully exclaims Jesus's miracles and the abundant freedom, light, life and healing that he brings to us today.

COMMISSION

Pastor Stephen Springer

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Fugue (from Organ Sonata no. 6, Op. 65 no. 6)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Mendelssohn's organ sonatas, perhaps the most important collection of German organ works written in the 100 years after Bach's death, were conceived as a set of voluntaries that Mendelssohn was commissioned to write by English publishing house Coventry and Hollier. Mendelssohn himself, a very fine but modest organist, never performed them in public, leaving the premiere to English organist Edmund Chipp. Mendelssohn's fascination with the works of Bach and Lutheran chorales is evident throughout the sonatas. The sixth sonata uses Luther's great chorale setting of the Lord's Prayer, Vater unser im Himmelreich, as its source material, featuring a set of variations on the tune for the first movement. This fugue, the second movement of the sonata, uses the first phrase of the chorale as its subject, which Mendelssohn then spins into many creative permutations.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Dianne Huston, Lector
John Hoelter, Assisting Minister
Eric Holtan, Cantor and Director of Choirs
Kevin Seal, Organ