

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2021

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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

Amen

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Sermon

Silence for Reflection

Creed and Confession

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.
(Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(Jude 21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.
Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of
life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

Prayers of Intercession

As this week we observe the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and inaugurate the new President of the United States, let us offer our laments and petitions to God, responding to each with the words “In mercy, receive our prayers.”

O God, we lament the times when our churches have rejected collaboration with your worldwide family of grace — *a brief silence* — and we pray for your blessing on the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, evangelicals, and independents, that all your people will follow your call to discipleship and grow deeper into our unity in Christ.

Another brief silence.

O God, Shepherd of your people, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions — *a brief silence* — and we pray for an increased commitment to the care of your marvelous creation.

Another brief silence.

O God, Gardener of the globe, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of the people of America and the calls for international cooperation — *a brief silence* — and we pray for President-elect Biden, for Vice President-elect Harris, and for all our elected members of Congress, that they fulfill their obligations to uphold and extend the common good.

Another brief silence.

O God, Shield of the commonwealth, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the uncontrolled rage and the senseless violence that recently defaced our nation — *a brief silence* — and we pray that peace reign in our streets, that our capital cities be safe, that all citizens come to accept the new administration, and that a spirit of repentance, reconciliation and cooperation mark the next stage of our national life.

Another brief silence.

O God, Peacemaker in our land, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the decades of ethnic injustices and racial prejudice that brought such suffering to many residents of our country — *a brief silence* — and we pray that you bless the Indigenous

peoples, descendants of Africans, and all immigrants to this land, and that you form us into a nation in which all are honored in equal measure.

Another brief silence.

O God, Liberator of the oppressed, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world — *a brief silence* — and we pray that you bring health to the sick, comfort to the dying, resilience to health workers, prompt vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this scourge.

Another brief silence.

O God, Physician and Nurse, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears,
and we pray that as with the boy Samuel, you speak to us in the night of our need.

A longer period of silence.

O God, Lover of our souls, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the lives of those who have died, in storms, in riots, and in sickbeds. We praise you especially for the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and those we name here before you. . . .; and we pray that at the end, we join with all the members of your family in your presence.

A brief silence.

O God, eternal Arms of Mercy, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Into your hands, O loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Offering Moment

Concluding Prayers

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God,
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,
proclaiming to us your wisdom
and inviting us to follow your call.

For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,
and revived the brokenhearted.

For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,
now and forever. Amen.

Amen.

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

**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**

**Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen**

Be at Peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**