



“The One is Shining Forth”

Season after Epiphany
Week 7- Transfiguration Sunday

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint
Worship - February 14, 2021

Prelude

Play meditative instrumental music that helps quiet your mind, body, and spirit for listening to God’s presence with you.

Let us seek to simplify this moment, slow down for a time. Let us worship, leaning on prayer, reflection and sharing with one another.

Threshold

“God is Holding Your Life” - (Inspired by Psalm 121)

[For those of you without access to the online service, we are working on getting copies of this series made on DVDs. If you would like a set, let Pastor Lori through the office]

The Psalm that comes at the end of our series speaks of an active God whose light shines for all time and in all places. God is not silent, but calls the people to remember that they, too, can act on God's behalf, holding all suffering peoples in hands of prayer and care and transforming the world that will shine bright into the future. May it be so. This last week we will sing all the verses of our theme song.

**Lift up your eyes, behold the hills.
From where will help and rescue come?
We call the One who made the earth,
Who bless'd the stars, the moon and sun.**

**God is holding your life
God is holding your life
God is holding your life, we believe
[repeat refrain]**

**Turn now your gaze upon the earth
Where is the One who never sleeps?
We call the One who guards you now,
Your spirit safe in holy keep.**

[repeat refrain]

**Venturing out or coming home,
'neath heat of day or cool of night,
we call the one who hears your voice
and comes to heal and keep your life.**

[repeat refrain]

Opening Collect Prayer

Leader: Holy One, Light of the World,
you help us to see and find our way in this time.
Open us this day to a vision of the world made all-right,
so that we might alight our own lives to show forth
your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

***People: We praise you for your steadfast presence,
holding our lives together in love.***

Amen.

WORD

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

Psalm Reading: Psalm 50:1-6 (Lukan Psalter translation)

ADONAI our God speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

ADONAI comes and won't be silent:
a devouring fire goes before God,
while storms rage all around.

God summons heaven and earth
to the trial of God's people:

“Gather to me my faithful ones,
who make their covenant with me
by sacrifice!”

The heavens affirm God's justice
because it is God who is the judge!

——Selah——

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Lectionary Scripture for today: 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;
Mark 9:2-9

Reflection

The inclusion of the first six verses of the Psalm in the lectionary is related to the Gospel text of Jesus' transfiguration, connecting the awesome and expansive light of God to the occasion of seeing Jesus in the light along with Moses and Elijah. If you are connecting the two, then simply using these six verses on their own may be appropriate. But if you are offering a reflection on the Psalm alone, you might want to take a look at its entirety. The "judge" is inviting the people to remember their covenants promise to be the people who embody the attributes of God in the world. This is our invitation to remember that we are charged with continuing to shine the light of God in the troubles of the world and to be the hands of God, holding all peoples in steadfast love as God holds us.

Take some time now and reflect on this. How is God shining forth in your life? Where are you seeing God's justice, God's fairness, setting things right? What will be our response after encountering in God's glory?

Song of the Day.

ELW 314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G major (two sharps) and common time. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The first section of lyrics is:

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

The second section of lyrics is:

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Prayers of the People

As we turn in prayers. I will offer a category of concern and we will allow a brief pause, then we will respond as indicated.

As a prayer posture for this worship series, I invite you to cup your hands, ready to receive God's love and peace, and in preparation to be God's love and peace in the world.

Let us pray for the leaders of this world and this church community... [pause]

God of Justice, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in conflict around the world... *[pause]*
Prince of Peace, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are experiencing loss of any kind in this pandemic... *[pause]*
Comforting Healer, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who are homeless, hungry and alone... *[pause]*
Emmanuel, God-With-Us, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who live in comfort,
for Christ-like hospitality and generosity... *[pause]*
Transforming Spirit, hear our prayer.

Let us pray, for those we have named and the ones whose names we do not know,
[pause and include any other petitions you might have]
hear our prayer.

Holy and Living One, as we gather to break bread once again, break us open to your love,
to your peace, to your presence, to your transformative power. In the name of the One
who invites us time and again, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Confession and Assurance

We are all invited to the gift of this table of grace. As a response to the invitation, we are asked to let go of all that separates us from accepting this grace. We confess the ways we have placed hardship in the hands of others, rather than peace.

[sung]
**Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.**

When we place peace in each other's hands, we place love in all the hands of the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God! Amen!

The Peace and Thanksgiving

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Will you make a gesture of peace toward others who may be with or near you as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us.

Then, write here what you are thankful for today and/or how you sense God calling you to respond to this gracious gift of peace and forgiveness today.

OFFERING

If you would like to offer financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran, you can mail them to the church. 526 S. Olive, Ave. Sandpoint, ID 83864 or online at <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>

[sung]

**Give thanks for strong yet tender hands
held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short let hands speak out;
the heights of love expressing.**

If you are with someone or on the phone with friends or family, Holy Communion can be shared now. Choose a leader and follow the liturgy included here. If you would like a pastor to share this meal with you by phone, arrange through the church office.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts, your lives to the Holy One.

We long for this communion.

Let us give our greatest thanks to the Holy One.

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks and praise.

Gift of Life, Creator of All That Is,
You have breathed life into us,
filled our emptiness,
loved us through our resistance.

Time and again you say, Listen!

Time and again you say, Live!

Time and again you say, Love!

And so we gather and give thanks in this moment.

We stop so we may listen,
we breathe so we may live,
we open so we may love.

**Holy , holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you God,
And blessed be your work in Jesus,
Peace-Giver, Life-Healer.
Spirit-Anointer, do your work in us, as in him.

For Jesus gathered with his disciples, his friends, his family.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his companions saying,
“Take, eat, this is my body. My life given for you.

And after the supper he lifted his cup, gave thanks over it,
and offered it to his companions, saying,
“Drink from this cup, all of you. This is my life, my love poured out for you.
Whenever you gather together, stop... *Selah...* think of me. I am here.”

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer together.

**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.**

We who are many are one body, one loaf, rising in Spirit together.

Even if we cannot be physically in the same space,
we are one in love.

We are one in the grace of Christ broken open for us.

While we have many cups,
God's love is poured upon us from the one cup of salvation.
It is in this sharing beyond all time and space that we are drawn close,
that we are made whole,
that we are made free.

As you are served by those with you,
or served by your own hand,
know that the hand that serves you is the hand of all Christ's Body,
through mystical union with the Divine.
You are not alone.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Share bread with each person at your table saying,
“The body of Christ given for you.”*

*Then share the wine or grape juice with each person saying,
“The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

For those at the table who do not yet receive Communion, you can offer this or a similar blessing, “You are a child of God. God’s love is always with you.”

Prayer After Receiving

God of all that is too deep for words,
we give you thanks that, at this table of grace,
you offer your holiness, your steadfast love.
Open us often to your *Selah*, your pause,
to hear the needs of your people.
We pray this in the name of the Host of this Table,
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Benediction

Now go in the knowledge that
God is holding your life
even as we hold each other.
You are not alone.
You are loved.
Amen.

Postlude

Worship Notes:

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Songs:

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Prayer List: Michelle Thurston, George Marker, Lynn Franck, Martha & Ed Jewell (as they return to Libby, MT), Chris Ingham; Randy Petersen; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Gerda Burke; Debbie Haberlock; Kara Schripsema; Kai Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier, Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

We include prayers for Luther Park - its staff, residents, and families; our newly elected Council Members and Luther Park Board. We ask for faith, the ability to learn from the last year, and continue to find our way to do God’s Work with Our Hands in 2021.

Announcements:

The 2021 FLC Council will be installed during the Zoom Fellowship time at 10 a.m. (rescheduled)

Lent begins Wednesday, February 17. Worship resources will be delivered on Tuesday and an online worship service will be available by Wednesday evening. During these 40 days, we will examine our life of prayer and how it may become more and more the means for developing our spiritual resiliency.

On Sundays, the worship series, “The Gift of the Dark Wood” will help us explore the gifts God gives us when we aren’t sure of where we are or where the path we are on will take us. The disciples, once they sense Jesus has set his face toward Jerusalem, aren’t sure if Jesus knows what he is doing. Together, we will let ourselves get lost, so that we may be found.

If you want to go deeper into these themes during the week, please consider purchasing Eric Elnes book by the same name. [Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics](#). Cokesbury Publisher has them available currently for \$14.79 paperback.

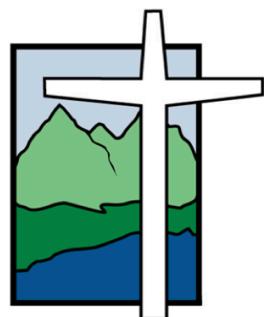
See this week’s newsletter for more details about how we will worship during Lent.

FOR YOUR PRAYER AND REFLECTIONS UPON GOD'S WORD



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