



Christ's Hope & Light Revealed

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 31, 2021

Healing on the Sabbath

*The more Jesus challenged the laws, the more the law-keepers dug in their heels.
Change does not come easily.*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Shepherd Me

- arr. Tate

Announcements

Call to Worship

Holy God—in this precious hour, we pause
and gather to hear your word—
to do so, we break from our work responsibilities
from our play fantasies;
we move from our fears that overwhelm
and from our ambitions that are too strong.
Free us in these moments from every distraction,
that we may focus to listen,
that we may hear, that we may change. Amen.

- Walter Brueggemann

Confession & Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of light,

You light a fire within us and ask us to shine, but we are quick to hide and make excuses. We shrink from challenges, avoid responsibility, and deny the goodness of your creation. We seek hollow praise and then don't believe it. Forgive us for hiding our God-given light and remaining self-absorbed.

Children of God, never fear, for you have always lived in the mercy of your creator. Hear the words of absolution and believe them: you are forgiven, you are made whole, you are restored to God. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

Opening Song

How Great is Thy God/How Great Thou Art

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice**

**How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God**

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great thou art, how great thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great thou art, how great thou art**

**And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end
The Godhead three in one, Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb**

**How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see
How great, how great is our God**

**Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great thou art, how great thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great thou art, how great thou art**

Prayer of the Day

Mighty God, You gave the law to free your people, not sink us further into bondage. May we seek your Spirit of truth in all that we do, that our lives may glorify you always, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

*Jesus ruffled feathers by eating and healing on the Sabbath.
But he knew the laws had outgrown their purpose.
It was time for God's laws to serve people, and not the other way around.*

Invitation to the Word

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

**Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

Scripture Reading

Luke 6:1-16

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ²But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" ³Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" ⁵Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath." ⁶On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

¹²Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. ¹³And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, ¹⁵and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon, who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

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

Message

Special Music

"I Know You Are Near"

- Cooper Ray

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers

Sung before all prayers

**Let my prayer rise up, like incense before me,
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.**

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Loosen our grip on the letter of the law and how we can use it against others. Instead, open us to the spirit of your law of love, which knows when and how to act on behalf of justice.

God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Reform unjust systems and shatter structures of power which trample upon the people they were intended to serve. May your ways be our ways, and may we find new paths forward by your power.

God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

As grain provided for the needs of the disciples, so have you provided all that we truly need for life. Join us with the land and creatures who exist alongside us and free us to live in harmony with them.

God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who have lost jobs and other sources of livelihood, assuring them that their needs will be provided. Send your Spirit of healing to all those who we know need it, especially...

God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Our true home lies in heaven with you, where all the saints of all the ages glorify you eternally. Inspire us to live each day fully here on earth, in assurance of that time when all will be reunited in your love.

God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

Receive our prayers and shed light on our path as we seek to walk in your ways and bring glory to you through your son Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sharing God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

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

Blessing

May God fill you with hope and illumine the darkness, with the light of Christ. Amen.

Sending Song

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Red ELW 597 vv.1,2,4

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

Refrain

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain***

Sending

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

All Creatures of Our God and King

- arr. Wells



Hope & Light : A Community Art Project

“The time after Epiphany celebrates God’s incarnation and Jesus’ revealing glory. In this time, we discover Christ’s presence in our lives and share that good news with the world.”

As the season of Epiphany approaches – January 10 thru February 14 - you are invited to participate in creating a piece of artwork that symbolizes God’s revealing of hope and light in our lives, community & world.

Here is how it will work:

- Each week you will be directed at the end of worship to reflect on a question that the pastors will present. You will then design, on your own time, 2 pieces of the puzzle that represents your thoughts – a scene, color schemes, abstract designs, words etc. – however you are moved.
 - You can use markers, pens, crayons, collage, glitter etc. – whatever medium you would like.
 - ***If you would to participate, please call the church office and we will make arrangements to deliver a bag of supplies (puzzle pieces) to you.***
- At the end of the season, during the week of February 14th we ask that you bring back your designed puzzle and place them in the basket in front of the church office.
 - *If you are unable to return your puzzle, please call the church office and we will make arrangements to pick up your puzzle.*
- Some puzzles will be given to those who are homebound as a symbol - a reminder - of God’s hope. All other puzzles will then be created to make a collective piece of art that reflects, as a community, our hope and light. **When all of these individual lights come together as one we can rest in what is and will be revealed in Christ for all of us. Our hope and light becomes even brighter!**
- The finished artwork will be displayed in the Narthex to welcome us back when the time comes when we gather together in-person.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Novess knovess@holyshepherd.com or 720.854.5365.



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude & Postlude: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Scott Ikenberry
- Liturgy leaders: Kathy Irwin, Bryan Bennett, Michael Boehm, Dave Irwin
- Opening Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Special Music: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Sending Song: Jordan Ortman, Amy Evancheck, Susie DiPaolo
Denise Ikenberry, Dianne Schulte, John Reed, Scott Ikenberry
Ryan McPeek, Bryan Bennett, Eric Kurtz, Mike Madsen
Dave Gleason
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony, Winston Herbert, Amy Evancheck, Ron Skabo