



Christ's Hope & Light Revealed

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021

Roman Centurion & Raising the Widow's Son

A Roman centurion surprised and amazed Jesus. What we do and say matters to Jesus.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

There is a Fountain

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 responsibilities;
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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Red ELW 779 vv.1,2,4

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, You rewarded the faith of a Roman centurion who feared and trusted you. May we have the same unshakable faith in your mercy and ability to heal all that prevents us from serving you, for the sake of Jesus. **Amen.**

*Jesus was busy healing and teaching throughout the countryside.
When a Roman centurion asked for Jesus' help, it took Jesus by surprise.*

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 7:1-17

After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ²A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. ³When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. ⁴When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, ⁵for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." ⁶And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; ⁷therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. ⁸For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." ⁹When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." ¹⁰When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

¹¹Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. ¹²As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, rise!" ¹⁵The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us!" and "God has looked favorably on his people!" ¹⁷This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

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

Message

Special Music

A New Day's Light

- Lagerberg

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.

A Roman officer recognized the power of words to create and bring about results. May we take responsibility for the words we utter and the worlds we create with them, choosing to speak love, mercy and redemption for all.

Healing God, **Hear our prayer.**

We live in a competitive and often ruthless world, where few prosper wildly and too many go without basic needs. Help us to even the balance and work for fair compensation of workers and distribution of resources so that all may thrive.

Healing God, **Hear our prayer.**

Our headstrong ways have brought destruction and disaster upon this planet we call home. Show us how our equally strong powers of innovation and creation can begin to turn around the damage we have done and bring about restoration in the natural world. Healing God, **Hear our prayer.**

You need only to say the word and we are healed. Cure our ills, whatever their cause, and strengthen us to continue serving you. Bless all of those whose names we bring before you today...

Healing God, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with all who grieve the loss of loved ones, and hold them all in your comforting arms until the day when we will all be reunited in your eternal glory.

Healing God, **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

I Saw the Light

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin,
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in;
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord! I saw the light

Chorus

*I saw the light, I saw the light,
No more in darkness, no more in night;
And now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light*

Just like a blind man, I wandered along,
Worries and fears I claimed for my own;
Then, like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord! I saw the light. *Chorus*

I was a fool to wander and stray,
Straight is the gate and narrow the way;
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord! I saw the light. *Chorus*

Sending

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

Postlude

As the Grains of Wheat



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: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Amy Evancheck
- Liturgy leaders: Barb Stannard, Susan Parks, Lindsay Bosak-Simmons,
Kat, Maryssa & Karli Patterson, Becca & Matthew Mohrbacher
- Opening Song: Ryan McPeek, Jordan Ortman
- Special Music: Larry Lagerberg
- Sending Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues
- Postlude: Diane Klinkerfues
- Photographs: Michael TeKrony, Winston Herbert, Amy Evancheck, Ron Skabo