Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, February 7, 2021

Prelude

"Adoration" by Florence Price

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

C: Merciful God, we praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us in the gifts and promises of baptism, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all who have been baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

C: We rejoice in the gift of our baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

P: May Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, forgive us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 532 "*Gather Us In*"

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

P: 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

21 Have 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?
22 It 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;
23 who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 Scarcely 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.

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

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

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Hymn: Gloria Canticle (Setting 5)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

16 If 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! 17 For 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. 18 What 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.
19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I
might win more of them. 20 To 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. 21 To 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. 22 To 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. 23 I do it all for
the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Setting 5)

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

29 As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of
Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with
a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and
lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.
32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with
demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And 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.
35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted
place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When
they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." 38 He 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." [39]And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Setting 5)

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

ELW 612 "*Healer of our Every Ill*"

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.

2 As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,

source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.

Apostle's Creed

A: Let us confess our faith:
C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 of Intercession

A: Remembering the Church, the world, and all those in need, let us offer our prayers to God. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Blessed be God, who gave us the light of the world and who desires that all people should come to know Christ's love and grace. Fill our hearts with your radiance and truth that we might walk as children of light. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Lord God, through the ministry of your Son we have received grace upon grace. Bring light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and

despair. We pray especially for those we name before you: Dennis, Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Renee, Vicki, Rhea, Lupe, Betty, Calina, Bob, Judy, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and the others we name silently in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Thanks be to God who calls us to witness in Christ's love in our community. We Give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church, Concordia Place and Concordia Day. Use our gifts for those you have called us to serve. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: God of light and truth, whose love knows no bounds in your Son, Jesus. Bring us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel, help us to accept the challenge of Christian living, and lead us to the joy of faith in the family of your church. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O Lord our God, through Jesus Christ, for your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
C: Amen.

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

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing Anthem

"*Deep River*", traditional spritual

Benediction and Dismissal

P: Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisation on "*Healer of our Every Ill*"

Announcements

- Our Sunday services are now available each week beginning at 8am! You can find our services on our website at www.concordiafaith.org/worship. You can also access the weekly bulletin where you can follow along and participate with the service.

- Concordia Church invites you to participate in our 2021 (community) Daily Lenten devotional. We are providing copies of 'A Story to Tell' in either physical book form (mailed to you) or electronic form (via a link to be read with the free Kindle App for smart devices). Please reserve your copy by filling out this form. *Please note, physical book copies are limited and are 'first come, first served'.* To ensure you receive your copy in time, please note the following deadlines: **physical book form - reserve your copy by Feb. 10th; electronic book form - reserve your copy by Feb. 15th**. Questions? Please connect with Jen Phillips at 773-463-1600 ext. 402 or jphillips@concordiafaith.org

- We appreciate your continued gifts to Concordia Church! Remember, you may give in three ways:
    1. Text-to-give: Text "Concordia" to 73256 and follow the link you receive
    2. Give online at onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
    3. Send a check via mail to the church