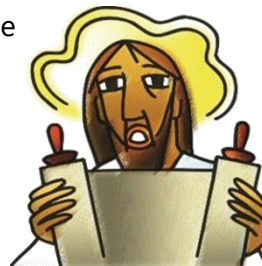


THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 23, 2022 • 9:45 a.m. • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

As We Gather

Epiphany is the season of revelation. From the visit of the Magi to the baptism of Jesus to the miracle of water into wine, we see the Lord reveal Himself as the promised Savior. Today Jesus reveals Himself in a way familiar to us—He preaches a sermon. In this sermon, Jesus identifies Himself as the one promised through the prophet Isaiah. As with any sermon, some will hear and believe, while others will reject it in unbelief. In Nazareth Jesus found more rejection than faith; today we pray that it will not be so among us.



✠ GATHERING IN THE LORD'S NAME ✠

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentences

- P** We begin in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
- P** The law of the LORD is perfect.
C It revives the soul.
- P** The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy.
C It gives wisdom to the inexperienced.
- P** The precepts of the LORD are right.
C They give joy to the heart.
- P** The commandment of the LORD is bright.
C It gives light to the eyes.
- P** The fear of the LORD is pure.
C It stands forever.

P The just decrees of the LORD are truth.

C **They are altogether righteous.** (Psalm 19:7-9)

Opening Hymn | LSB 904 | “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and



all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,



Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed, You a - lone to
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

(Please stand)

Confession and Absolution

P May the speech from my mouth and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to You,

C **O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.** (Psalm 19:14)

P Heavenly Father, thank You for hearing us as we pray:

A *Too often we have neglected Your Word and ignored Your work in our lives. Instead of focusing on You, we have focused on ourselves. Instead of serving others, we have expected to be served. Forgive us, gracious Father, and renew us through Your Word of life. Help us to see Jesus in our midst as Your Word made flesh—crucified for our sins and*

raised to life again. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, give us hearts to joyfully worship You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

P Jesus stands and proclaims the Good News in your hearing this day! As your pastor and as His servant, it is my joy to announce His forgiving grace to all of you and, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

Hymn of Praise | LSB 973 | “Thy Word Is a Lamp”

Refrain



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.

1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My

Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.

noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; *And Refrain*

Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

Prayer of the Day

P Blessed Lord God, You have caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for the nourishment of Your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by Your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

✠ LISTENING TO THE LORD'S WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading | Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

¹When the seventh month came and the Israelites were in their cities, all the people gathered together at the public square that is in front of the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So on the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the Law before the congregation, both men and women and all who were able to understand what they heard. ³From dawn until midday in front of the public square in front of the Water Gate, he read from the scroll, while facing the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. . . ⁵All the people could see Ezra as he opened the scroll, because he was elevated above all the people. As he opened the scroll, all the people stood. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!" while they lifted up their hands and then knelt and bowed down with their faces to the ground. . . . ⁸So they read from the Book of the Law of God clearly and interpreted it, and the people understood what was read. ⁹Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites, who helped the people understand, said to all the people, "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or cry!" because all the people were crying as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Nehemiah said to them, "Go, eat rich food and drink sweet drinks and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, because today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the LORD is your strength."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Epistle Reading | 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³For by one Spirit we all were baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free people, and we were all caused to drink one Spirit. ¹⁴Furthermore, the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body," it does not on that account cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶If the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body," it does not on that account cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But now God has arranged the members in the body, each and every one of them, as He desired. ¹⁹If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰But as it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need for you," or again the head to the feet, "I have no need for you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are much more necessary. ²³As for the parts of the body we consider less honorable, these we provide with more honor. We treat our unpresentable parts with more modesty, ²⁴whereas our presentable parts have no such need. But God put the body together in a way that gave more honor to the parts that lack it. ²⁵He did it so that there might not be any division in the body, but that the members might all have the same concern for one another. ²⁶So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷You are the body of Christ, and individually you are members of it. ²⁸And God appointed in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then miracles, healing gifts, helpful acts, leadership abilities, kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? ³⁰Do all have healing gifts? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But eagerly seek the greater gifts.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

(Please stand in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ)

Alleluia Verse

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel | Luke 4:16-30

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, He visits His hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, He states and claims His identity, purpose, and mission.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. ²⁰He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him. ²¹He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²²They all spoke well of Him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from His mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?" ²³He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in Your hometown everything we heard You did in Capernaum." ²⁴And He said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹They got up and drove Him out of the town. They led Him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw Him off the cliff. ³⁰But He passed through the middle of them and went on His way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day | LSB 349 | "Hark! the Glad Sound"



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Message

(Please stand)

✠ RESPONDING TO THE LORD'S GRACE ✠

Profession of Faith | Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Offering



A SPECIAL NOTE: The mission and ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. If you are a GUEST today, please do not feel obligated to make a contribution, but know that any financial gift which you make will be used to help share Christ's love and salvation. Our offerings are an important part of our worship. Also, take a moment to fill out a Friendship Card and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Prayer of the Church

- P** Heavenly Father, open doors of opportunity, so that wherever we find ourselves, there we may speak Your Word, troubling those comfortable in their sin and comforting those troubled by their sin. Use Your holy Word to accuse the unrepentant and acquit those who repent. May their faith increase as they boldly confess Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord! Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord Jesus, who came to proclaim liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed, hear the prayers of all who call out to You in their distress. We pray for those who are homebound, sick, hospitalized, undergoing treatments, awaiting surgery, and recovering from procedures (especially ...). Bestow upon all who suffer the fullness of Your healing grace. Raise up leaders in this and every nation to serve their people with justice, compassion, and mercy. Protect and defend the members of our armed forces and local police, fire, and rescue services as they care for their fellow citizens. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Holy Spirit, who has given great and diverse gifts throughout the Church, enliven our faith and increase our delight. Grant that we may use them as resources to build up Your people in strength and faith, through Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, hear us as we pray for our family and friends. Use our gifts to increase joy and peace among those who we hold near and dear. Help us to see one another through Your eyes. Fill us with the power of Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P (Other petitions may be offered.) Gracious Father, we place these prayers and all others in the hands of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit reign forever and ever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

A *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.*

✠ DEPARTING WITH THE LORD'S BLESSING ✠

Benediction

P Our gracious Redeemer now sends us out, with His Word in our hearts and on our lips, so that we may declare His grace to the world He came to save.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. (Numbers 6:24–26)

C Amen.

Parting Hymn | LSB 658 (st. 1-4) | "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"



1 Pre-serve Your Word, O Sav - ior, To us this lat - ter day,
2 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your hon - or, The bold blas - phem - er smite;
3 Pre-serve, O Lord, Your Zi - on, Bought dear - ly with Your blood;
4 Pre-serve Your Word and preach - ing, The truth that makes us whole,



And let Your king - dom flour - ish; En - large Your Church, we pray.
Con - vince, con - vert, en - light - en The souls in er - ror's night.
Pro - tect what You have cho - sen A - gainst the hell - ish flood.
The mir - ror of Your glo - ry, The pow'r that saves the soul.



O keep our faith from fail - ing; Keep hope's bright star a - glow.
Re - veal Your will, dear Sav - ior, To all who dwell be - low,
Be al - ways our de - fend - er When dan - gers gath - er round;
Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, This dew of heav'n - ly grace,



Let noth - ing from truth turn us While liv - ing here be - low.
Great light of all the liv - ing, That all Your name may know.
When all the earth is crum - bling, Safe may Your Church be found.
Sus - tain us while here liv - ing Un - til we see Your face.

Sending

P Go in peace to love the Lord and serve your neighbor!

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

✠ EXITING TO WITNESS ✠

Participants in Worship

Pastor:	Rev. Brian R. Bestian
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Ryden Richardson
Acolyte:	Bella Montgomery
Reader:	Lori Duff

Acknowledgments

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PRAYER MINISTRY | Philippians 4:6-7

Please call the church office @ 833-1009 to include a prayer request for the bulletin.

If you have a prayer request for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at oveja6925@aol.com.



Grieving:

Family of **Judy Soto** (friend of Peggy Bartel) as they mourn her death.

Missions:

Please pray for all missionaries around the world.

Illness and Recovery:

Diana Holguin (recovery from surgery), **Lauren** (Marjy Brady's daughter and family; Covid), **Soledad Nava** (member of Pastor Schlak's congregation; stroke), **Peggy Bartel**, **Robert Scaling** (friend of the Webers; Covid), **Kathy Kiphart**, **Jessica & Theodore Estes**, **Jerry Rust**, **Denton** (drug addiction), **Rose**, **Elliott Werner** (recovering from surgery), **Martha & Richard Neal**, **Shirley Goldsmith**, **Steve Prince**, **John Weiske**, **Bob Gallagher**, **Brian Stickney**, **Juan Chacon**, **Tony & Olga Sullivan**, **Linda Seiders**, and everyone battling Covid.

Deployed Troops:

Please pray for all deployed troops and their families as they serve our country around the world.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Women's Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Anita Werner

Tuesday Men's Bible Study | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall | Elliott Werner

Thursday Women's Bible Study | 9:45 AM | Fellowship Hall | Gretchen Schmalz

This Week @ Ascension

Sunday (January 23)

8:30 AM | Adult Bible Class

9:45 AM | Worship

11:00 AM | Confirmation Class | Fellowship Hall

Monday (January 24)

Church Office Closed

Tuesday (January 25)

6:30 PM | Women's Bible Study | Zoom

6:30 PM | Men's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall

6:45 PM | Boy Scouts | Church Basement

Wednesday (January 26)

8:45 AM | Preschool Chapel | Sanctuary

11:00 AM | The Sewing Group | Fellowship Hall

6:30 PM | Choir Rehearsal | Sanctuary

Thursday (January 27)

9:45 AM | Women's Bible Study | Fellowship Hall

