

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

06 February 2022



This is the Kvindherred Church in Rosendal, Norway established in 1255. Many of our early pioneers were baptized and confirmed in this church. On leaving Norway, some of our people carried letters written by the Kvindherred pastor attesting to their membership.



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Service of Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness (pages 94-96)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.
There is a time of silence for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn #876 “Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Greeting (page 138)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie (pages 138-139; spoken responsively)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and
praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise: "This is the feast..." (pages 140-141)

Prayer of the Day

Readings

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (page 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Children's Sermon – Pastor Roberta

Sermon – Pastor Roberta

Hymn #413 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!”

Installation of Council Members

Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (page 105)

**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 of Intercession

(Each petition ends: P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.)

Offering

Great Thanksgiving (page 144; spoken responsively)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:
"Holy, holy, holy Lord..." (page 144)

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer (page 145)

**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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

"Lamb of God..." (page 146)

Hymn #802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

**Post Communion Blessing & Prayer
Blessing**

Hymn #575 "In Christ Called to Baptize"

Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Ringling of the Bell / Postlude

Pastor: Rev. Roberta Pierce

Organist: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman

Acolyte: David Burke

Lector: Jason Bousselot

Communion Assistant: Brian Bousselot

Usher: Neil Holmquist

Cleaners: Marcia Edens and Mark Olson

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This Week At A Glance

Wednesday 6:00 pm Confirmation class at Faith

7:00 pm Bible Jam at Faith

Sunday 8:00 am Worship Service at Faith

9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's

10:30 am Worship Service at Our Savior's
am

Those to keep in prayer: Yale Christensen, Paul Rock, Megan Mineck Wentland, Ryan Dick, Neil Mason, Betty Schau, Tim Burke, Jim Goddard, Barb Johnson; the homebound: Bus Seastrand, Rusty Porth, Hazel Richards, Ron Gasper, Norman Bousselot, Joan Shelton, and Myrna Kay Petersen; and those serving in the military.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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The readings for this Sunday depict both Peter and Isaiah bowing before the Lord, confessing their sinfulness before a holy God. We also read of the early confession of the church regarding Christ's death and resurrection. We also receive insights into the early, post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. These are some common themes in the readings for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.

In the first reading from Isaiah 6, the prophet receives a vision of the holiness of God. He writes:

“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory’” (Isaiah 6:1-3).

Isaiah was given a window into the heavenly throne room of God. His response was a sense of unworthiness before such a holy God, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” (Isaiah 6:5).

Isaiah's experience is a common one throughout Scripture. When men and women come in contact with the holiness of God, they are struck with the reality of their own sinfulness and unrighteousness. This is the very response of Peter that we will discover in the Gospel reading from Luke 5. The divine transcendence of God always brings us to our knees in a humble posture of worship, adoration, and repentance.

Isaiah 6 is often used as a model for structuring worship. We adore God as holy and then acknowledge our sinfulness, receiving his forgiveness and obeying his call to be sent back out into the world. Isaiah 6 also speaks of the coming exile and the removal of God's people from the land. The promise of a "holy seed" is offered at the end of this first reading. God is always faithful to restore a remnant and to bring redemption to his people.

The psalm of response echoes the theme in Isaiah 6. The psalmist writes:

"I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything"
(Psalm 138:1-2).

Like Isaiah, the psalmist takes the humble posture of bowing down and worshipping the one true God. He also acknowledges that all will bow before the Lord.

"All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away" (Psalm 138:4-6).

The psalmist recognizes that the Lord is over all the various rulers and kings of the earth. Paul notes this worldwide worship in the hymn fragment in his letter to the Philippians:

"Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. The psalmist makes this clear; however, he also proclaims that “though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly.” Our God loves to come to those who are humble and contrite of heart. We hear this theme echoed throughout the Scriptures. And as we have already mentioned, so often this humble posture accompanies our encounters with the glory of God. God’s glory and our humility go hand in hand. May we, who will one day bow our knees before the Lord of all creation, learn to bow before him now and declare him Lord.

In the second reading from 1 Corinthians 15, Paul shares what is also considered to be an early confessional statement of the church: “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

Here, Paul summarizes some of the most basic tenets of our faith: the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. This early summary of our faith also includes the order of the post-resurrection appearances to Peter (Cephas) and then to all twelve of the disciples. Including these eyewitnesses was important to validate the reality of the resurrection as an historical event. After naming Peter and the twelve, Paul also writes:

“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as

to one untimely born, he appeared also to me” (1 Corinthians 15:6-8).

Paul shares that more than five hundred people saw Jesus after the resurrection. Paul includes himself as one to whom Jesus appeared. Paul’s encounter, however, was not with the resurrected Jesus but with the ascended Jesus. All of these eyewitness accounts demonstrate that Christianity is not based on theories, but realities and historical events.

Finally, the Gospel reading from Luke 5 offers a parallel account to the first reading from Isaiah 6. In Luke 5, we find the disciples weary from an all-night fishing expedition which yielded no fish. Peter obeys the Lord, however, when he tells him to cast his nets again. When they do, the amount of fish fills two boats! We don’t know all the surrounding circumstances in Peter’s life, but his response to the miraculous catch of fish caused him to acknowledge his own unworthiness before Jesus.

“But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’” (Luke 5:8).

In his heart, Peter knew he was in the presence of the divine and his physical posture reflected this reality. We also know from this narrative that Jesus called Peter to catch people, not fish. Peter left everything and followed him to do just that. When Jesus call us, we are compelled to respond. On this Fifth Sunday after Epiphany we encounter the Lord of all creation who is calling a people to himself, inviting them to catch people for his kingdom and to be willing to leave everything they know to come and follow him.

Prayer of Response (Based on Psalm 138)

Sovereign God, we give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,

for great is the glory of the Lord.

Though you are high, you regard the lowly; though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us against the wrath of our enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers us.

We know you will fulfill your purpose for us;

your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.