

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
EPIPHANY 3 - CELEBRATING ILLUMINATION
Reverend John R. Hanson
Sunday, January 23, 2022, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson

INTRODUCTION - *This theme is of purpose and call. God's powerful word is revealed in creation and through the book of the law. Jesus proclaims his mission as he reads from the scroll in the temple. Paul calls us to be the body of Christ, working together with each part taking his or her place. We are all recipients of God's calling word, and we are all to participate in Christ's mission. To do this we need to collaborate and cooperate, each taking a place in the body. May we reignite a sense of place within God's community.*

ANTHEM

"God's Peace"

Celebration Singers

THEME AND VERSE (Psalm 19:14)

We have come to worship the living God, who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness, who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace, who chooses each of us to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Green # 534

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who, from our mother's arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

CCLI Song # 86638 CCLI License # 1713417

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

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.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding

country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim

release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship

in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Who are able to discern all their own errors? Clear us, loving God, from hidden faults."

Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew your true Spirit within us.

Lord Jesus, come into the poverty of our minds and the coldness of our hearts, come with your wisdom and penetrating mercy. Cut through those tight cords that bind us to recurring sins and disabling anxieties. Open our eyes to the painful truths from which we have been hiding and enable us to recognize your costly grace. Create in us clean hearts and renew your true Spirit within us.

Lord Jesus, you are the true joy waiting to redirect our human restlessness and desires. We thank you that we are forgiven to a depth we cannot see and renewed for a future, which as yet, we only dimly comprehend. You are indeed our Savior and Lord. Strengthen and empower us, your people.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"Just What I Needed"

HYMN

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Blue # 767

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.***

The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, God made them every one.

God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God, you playfully and lovingly made all creatures great and small. But, best of all the things I see, you made people just like me. Thank you, God! As we have seen the wonder of your creation in the world and in the people around us, give us your understanding of the church so that each of us can find a way to include all our skills in ministry to all the world. Amen!

READING: Nehemiah 8:1-2, 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.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the

ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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 it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say,

"Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all

suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

HYMN

“Take My Life, that I May Be”

Green # 406

Take my life, that I may be consecrated Lord to thee;
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

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SERMON - *Can I (we) really “do it all” by myself (ourselves)? O Lord, you are my strength and my redeemer, in you I put my trust.*

HYMN

“You are My All in All”

You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek,
You are my all in all.
Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again I bless your name,
You are my all in all.
When I fall down you pick me up, When I am dry you fill my cup,
You are my all in all.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace and mercy, in the gift of your son you open the eyes of the blind, you give us the breath of life, you release those bound by sin and Satan. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, may our hearts be challenged, our minds convinced, and our wills conquered. May we find complete trust in your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

God has promised that whenever we repent and seek a new union with him, forgiveness is ours. The promise is true, even now. Sisters and brothers, know that in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. May we find the strength to bring this promise to all the world.

We have seen his glory and pray for the power to serve him gloriously.

By the grace of Jesus, go out from this place proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor to all you meet. The blessing of the one generous God, sustaining, liberating, and fulfilling all things, will be with you now and always.

Amen! We go in Christ's name, with love to serve.

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Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

In a world that can sometimes seem so random, this week in Epiphany gives us a vision of purpose. God's purpose – God's message – was read from the book of the law by Ezra to God's people. It is proclaimed through all of creation. And it was the guiding force in Jesus' life and ministry. As Jesus began his work, he proclaimed as his mandate the words of Isaiah's prophecy – God's saving and liberating "Jubilee" purpose. Now, as those who follow Christ, we are called, individually and together, to fulfil Christ's purpose, in our world and in our time. To do this, God has gifted each of us, and called us to work together as one Body, as Paul describes in First Corinthians.

Hearing God's word, allowing it to call and direct us, and working together as a body, a called community – these are the elements of this week's theme.

In every community are those who need liberation – the poor who need good news; the physically, or psychologically, or spiritually blind who need sight; the prisoners who need to be freed. Who are these people in your church and in your community?

The purpose of Christ is both an invitation to life for all the broken and lost ones (including us), but also a challenge to participate in the work of liberating those who choose to follow Jesus. This means that each of us needs to find and fulfil our place and purpose in the Body of Christ, as we work together toward Jesus' dream of a liberated world. It also means that we need to cling to God's word and allow it to challenge our injustice and direct our quest to bring life and wholeness to those around us.

How can you work within your world to commit to Christ's purpose so that, to those among you, you may also say (collectively) "today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing?"

John van de Laar at sacredise.com