

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior.

Amen.

HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

#488

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

- ¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."
- ⁵And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,

and my God has become my strength—
he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 40:1-11

I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)

¹I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

²**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

⁴**Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies. R

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be
com- | pared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;**

**you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not
required. R**

⁷And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

⁸**“I love to do your will, | O my God;
your law is | deep within me.”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and | your deliverance;**

I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given
you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and
knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among
you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our
Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on
the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the
fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:29-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man
who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I
came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John
testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I
myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on
whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy
Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched
Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard
him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he
said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated
means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came
and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four
o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was
Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We

have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

HYMN

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

#318

APOSTLE’S 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 OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world’s waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways and in responding to devastating floods.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need especially Woody, Larry, Susan, Shirley, Bob and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.

Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

DISTRIBUTION IN PEWS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
Amen.

HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

#302

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Welcome

Please pray throughout the week for the following: Woody Hestness, Larry Enderson, Susan Storlie, Shirley Eustis, Bob Cotton.

Thank you to Bev Lombardi for the beautiful organ music this morning.

Assisting in Worship:

Worship Assistant: Pam Jacobsen

Ushers/Coffee Servers: Larry & Mary Lahs

This Week at Salem -

Tuesday, January 17: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Thursday, January 19: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Women of Salem Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Friday, January 20: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday: January 22: 9:00 a.m. Fellowship coffee hour

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (followed by our Congregational Meeting)

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 22nd, 2023.

2023 offering envelopes may be picked up today.

Noisy Offering for January will be going to the Little Free Pantry. There is a great need at this time for donations.