



LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*CELEBRATING & TRUSTING
THE BRIGHT NEW LIGHT
IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST!*

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
“MAKING GOD FIRST THROUGH HOPE, GROWTH & TOGETHERNESS”

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.-16200 Dodd Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044-(952)-953-4484
Pastor Jamie Thompson Email: info@lordoflifemn.org Website: www.lordoflifemn.org



“CELEBRATING & TRUSTING THE BRIGHT NEW LIGHT IN THE GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST!”

The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 7, 2021

Extended Prelude & Words of Greeting

Song of Light & Grace “Blessed Be Your Name”

Redman

(Sung by Worship Leaders)

- vs. 1 Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow, Blessed be Your name.
- vs. 2 Blessed be Your name when I’m found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed be Your name.
Ev’ry blessing You pour out I’ll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say, *(refrain)*
- ref: “Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name.”

Trusting a New Epiphany In Grace & The Bright New Light – Psalm 147

Pastor: Friends, a new epiphany breaks forth today, blessed be your name, Lord; for The Bright New Light is here, and God graces us with a new finding in the One who searches for us first, so we worship, in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: People of God: The Lord determines the number of stars; he gives them all names. Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins and those times we have failed to trust the Lord, and all we find and trust in The Light of the world, the One who finds us first. *(silence for reflection)* Dear friends: God is the One who heals the brokenhearted. A new sign breaks forth! Receive a new epiphany today: All you are searching for is here, in The Bright New Light of God’s grace: Jesus saves, and Jesus forgives you all your sins. This morning and all your days, rise anew; our precious Lord, forever takes our hand!

Prayer of the Day

All: Almighty and loving God, as Jesus came to the first disciples, come to us, fill us by your Holy Spirit with a new epiphany. Open the eyes of our hearts and souls, to search first for you, to see you in our daily lives. Renew our spirits with the grace of The Bright New Light, as you lift us up, as you change our hearts to make God and neighbor first. In Jesus' name, we find all we are looking for, and we pray. Amen.

Hearing The Word of God

The Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

(all read bold print)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. 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. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "**Everyone is searching for you.**" 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 to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. (New Revised Standard Version)

Children's Sermon & "Jesus Loves Me"

(Sung by Worship Leaders)

Percival & Warner

Sermon

"The Bright New Finding!"

Pastor Jamie Thompson

(Today's message includes an introduction to the song: "There Is None Like You" by LeBlanc)

Song of Spirit & Grace Anew

(Sung by Worship Leaders)

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Allen & Dorsey

- vs. 1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
- vs. 3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Sharing Our Needs and Joys with God in Prayer

Pastor: ... as we pray to you, Jesus,

All: Give us a new epiphany, in your bright new light and grace.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see we need, grant to us we pray, for into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

We Receive the Gifts of Life from God in Holy Communion

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Strengthened to Live Today, All Our Days, In The Grace of Christ

Pastor: 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, for you are blessed with The Bright New Light of God's saving grace in Jesus Christ! In the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us go in the peace of Christ, celebrating the love of God, trusting anew every epiphany in The Bright New Light, and serving The Lord of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

Going Anew In Light & Hope "God of Wonders"

Byrd & Hindalong

(Sung by Worship Leaders)

Lord of all creation, of water, earth and sky,
The heavens are Your tabernacle; Glory to The Lord on high.

ref: God of Wonders, beyond our galaxy, You are holy, holy;
The universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy;
Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.

Early in the morning, I will celebrate the light.

When I stumble in the darkness, I will call Your name by night. *(refrain)*

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth.

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth.

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth. *(refrain)*

Lord of heaven and earth.

Song During Holy Communion

“There Is None Like You”

LeBlanc

(Sung by Worship Leaders)

ref: There is none like You,
No one else can touch my heart like You do;
I could search for all eternity long and find
There is none like You. *(repeat)*

vs. 1 Your mercy flows like a river wide
And healing comes from Your hands;
Suffering children are safe in Your arms,
There is none like You. *(refrain)*

Acknowledgments for today's service include: Litany Trusting a New Epiphany In Grace & The Bright New Light, written based on Psalm 147. "Prayer of The Day," "Lord's Prayer," "Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, & Benediction," based on the LBW. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice Hymnal Supplement © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis & Board of Publication, Lutheran Church In America, Philadelphia; and Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN. Used with permission. "My Soul Is Thirsting" © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., Michael Joncas OL #00801 "Seek Ye First" © 1972 CCCM Music, Karen Lafferty CCLI #1352 "The Heart of Worship" © 1998 Thankyou Music, Matt Redman CCLI #2296522 "Blessed Be Your Name" © 2002 Thankyou Music, CCLI #3798438 "Jesus Loves Me" Music & Lyrics Public Domain, CCLI #4771887 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" © 1938 Unichappell Music Inc. OL #59543 "God of Wonders" © 2000 New Spring Publishing, Inc. CCLI #3118757 "There Is None Like You" © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI #674545 All rights reserved. All songs used with permission. CCLI License #1380826 & OneLicense #A-724016.

*Join us next Sunday, February 14, 9:30 a.m., as we share and celebrate
The Transfiguration of Our Lord, "The Bright New Change!"
Worship to include a Children's Message and a Sermon from Pastor Jamie!
Worship to be 30 minutes, and to conclude with Holy Communion!
Join us in-person or via our live stream efforts!*

*Beginning with Ash Wednesday, February 17, midweek Lenten services will be provided thanks
to our virtual efforts, via a link in our daily Lenten devotions, website, and Facebook page.*

*Please plan to join us for our Annual Meeting at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, February 28!
You can join us in-person or through Zoom or a similar virtual experience.
The logistics are being finalized and will be communicated to you soon!*

*As we share worship in this new way, we are seeking volunteers to assist
with greeting, ushering, serving communion,
live streaming, AV ministry, set up, clean up, worship leaders, and more!
You can access details and ways to sign up on our website and Facebook page! Thank you!*

*Friends, today as always, all who proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are welcome to
God's table of grace as we share Holy Communion. Communion will be offered to you
following the closing song as you exit the sanctuary, as we share pre-packaged single servings
of communion, including a wafer and grape juice. Carefully pull back the first tab
to expose the host, the body of Christ, given for you; then pull back the second tab
to expose the blood of Christ, shed for you!
Please ask for assistance or clarification as you are served!*

*For those sharing their generosity today, we thank you for your faithful giving!
Offering is collected in baskets by the ushers as you exit the sanctuary.*

*For those who are not able to join us for worship, you are invited to receive drive-through
communion, available Sundays, 10:15-10:30 a.m. at the front curb near the church entrance.*

*We hope having the service provided for you in this way, will touch you, comfort you,
reassure you, and grace you in some way! If you believe others you know would be blessed to
receive this bulletin, the sermon notes, or our live stream links, please forward these to them.*

*In this time when we are committed to safety and social distancing, please trust we are equally
committed to keeping us socially and spiritually connected!
On behalf of the Kingdom of God, thank you for the ways you make God and neighbor first!*

*From everyone on every level of leadership and service,
we continue to pray for you and to give thanks to God for each of you!
Please contact Pastor Jamie if he can serve you in any way: jamie.thompson@lordoflifemn.org*

*We pray The Holy Spirit breathes anew on us to be God's people and to be God's Church,
as together we make known and we trust anew
God's gifts of hope, peace, justice, clarity, calm, and comfort forever break forth in new ways
for you and your loved ones, today, and as we share every gift of God's light, love and grace!*

“THE BRIGHT NEW FINDING!” – FEBRUARY 7, 2021
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
ISAIAH 40:21-31; 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23; MARK 1:29-39
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Have you ever been in the dark? You looked and could not find the light switch? It was not where you thought it was? You think, who moved it? Have you ever been alone in the dark? You thought someone was with you? Maybe you thought you could make it through the dark on your own, then you realized you were lost, in despair? How did it feel when you found the light or turned it on, or when you saw you were not alone after all? Our lives are not different from the first disciples. Today we hear again of illness and despair. We hear about searching. We hear, too, about Jesus' faithfulness to his calling - "for that is what I came to do." Jesus came so we would not be alone, to be The Bright New Light in our darkness, so our search for hope, grace and light would be over!

Count the letter “I,” upper and lower case, in the following sentence:

Why am I forever searching for The One who is for all eternity faithfully
searching for me, finding me first, saving me first, in The Bright New Light?

(There are 14 “i”s in the question above, 5 in line 1, 9 in line 2 - the reason for the simple exercise, is that often, when we go searching, we miss what is right in front of us! May we forever see The Christ, The Spirit, right in front of us!)

1. Do you ever find yourself reaching for some light? Are you afraid of the dark?
Isaiah 40:21; Mark 1:35 `In the morning, while still dark...’
 - A. Our world at times is very dark. It is sad, unknown, heavy, hard to understand, unjust, unfair.
 - B. We feel left in the dark as we face questions, doubts. We worry: `How good do I have to be?' `Why do we love Jesus, and still make mistakes?' `Will we get to see God when we die?' Even though we see, we hear, we are still unsure.
 - C. We go searching and hunting for the light of Christ. Mark 1:35-37
 - i. We can feel like he has deserted us.
 - ii. We need his light to heal us and to fix us.
 - iii. We look for The Bright New Light to save us from the dark, the demons, evil, and all that persists around us.
 - iv. "... those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings, as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31
Hope is right in front of us, in The One who finds us!

2. To be in the dark and searching is bad enough. To be in the dark, and to feel all alone is even worse. 1 Corinthians 9:19,23; Mark 1:31,33-34,38-39
 - A. Have you ever been alone in the dark? So alone, and so dark, you are not sure which direction you are going?
 - B. As bad as the dark can feel, it always feels better to have someone else with us. We are not the only ones in the dark.
 - C. God gives us each other, to search with, to serve, to share the story, and to follow with, side by side.
 - D. For the sake of the gospel, we may need to go into the dark, to tell those in the dark, to serve those in the dark, to invite, stand firm, uphold justice, as we find Who is always right in front of us!

3. When we are in the dark, no matter how alone we feel, we can trust The Bright New Light we reach for and search for will shine on us.
 - A. Trust God has already given us all the light we need to fill every corner of our life. Mark 1:30-31 - Jesus came to Simon's mother-in-law in her time of need. Our Lord comes to us, too!
 - B. Whatever need you have, look for Jesus to fill it. Whatever you are desperate for, trust the Lord will satisfy it.
 - C. Isaiah 40:25 - Nothing on earth can compare to God and his light. Nothing is equal to God and God's light.
 - D. Mark 1:35 - In the morning, while it was still dark - Jesus prayed. In the morning, while it was still dark - Jesus rose again, Easter morning, for you and for the world. Jesus is The Bright New Light, our hope, our strength. In Christ, celebrate and hold fast: The search for The Bright New Light is over!