

# Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



## Focus on the Season: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 5 B

---

Isaiah declares that is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars who also strengthens the powerless. In Jesus' healing work we see this hand of our creating God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and service as Christ's own, bringing people to God's healing grace.

*Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The link is embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the link in the email.*



## Centering and Gathering

---

Light your candle. **[Start the video by clicking here](#)**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: *The introduction to the first hymn serves as the prelude.*

HYMN: ELW 858, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

*Prelude and hymn are from the recording "Mount Olive Sings," recorded April 16, 2016.*

## Word

---

### 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God in the highest" (ELW setting 4)

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 5 A, February 9, 2020.*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31; reader – Sue Browender, lector

- <sup>21</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup> It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
 when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
 or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
 Who created these?  
 He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
 calling them all by name;  
 because he is great in strength,  
 mighty in power,  
 not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
 and speak, O Israel,  
 “My way is hidden from the LORD,  
 and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
 The LORD is the everlasting God,  
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
 He does not faint or grow weary;  
 his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
 and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
 and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
 they shall run and not be weary,  
 they shall walk and not faint.

PSALMODY: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises <sup>1</sup> to our God! \* How pleasant it is to honor <sup>1</sup> God with praise!

<sup>2</sup> The LORD re- <sup>1</sup> builds Jerusalem, \* and gathers the ex- <sup>1</sup> iles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD heals the <sup>1</sup> brokenhearted \* and binds <sup>1</sup> up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD counts the number <sup>1</sup> of the stars \* and calls them all <sup>1</sup> by their names.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our LORD and might- <sup>1</sup> y in power; \* there is no limit <sup>1</sup> to God’s wisdom.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD lifts <sup>1</sup> up the lowly, \* but casts the wicked <sup>1</sup> to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving; \* make music upon the harp <sup>1</sup> to our God,

<sup>8</sup> who covers the heav- <sup>1</sup> ens with clouds \* and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- <sup>1</sup> on the mountains.

<sup>9</sup> God provides food <sup>1</sup> for the cattle \* and for the young ravens <sup>1</sup> when they cry.

<sup>10</sup> God is not impressed by the might <sup>1</sup> of a horse, \* and has no pleasure in the speed <sup>1</sup> of a runner,

<sup>11</sup> but finds pleasure in those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD, \* in those who await God’s steadfast love. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

*Recorded Wednesday, February 3, 2021.*

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 9:16-23; reader – Leif Johnson, assisting minister

*Paul writes:* <sup>16</sup> If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup> For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my

own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW* page 142, "Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?"

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 30 C, October 23, 2016.*

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

<sup>29</sup>As soon as *Jesus and the disciples* left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

<sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>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.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>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 out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SERMON

**Wholeness Agents**

Pastor Joseph Crippen

*Silence for reflection.*

HYMN: *ELW* 546, "To Be Your Presence"

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 A, September 28, 2014.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Leif Johnson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

AT THE OFFERING

*There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:*

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

**Sending**

---

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 705, "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 A, July 30, 2017.*

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☞ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "God of Grace and God of Glory"

Paul O. Manz

*Recorded on Wednesday, February 3, 2021.*



## **In Our Prayers**

- *Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Evelyn Royce; Julia Adams; Elizabeth Beissel, Charlotte Erlandson; Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; James Wilkes; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Sara Brunette, relative of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Bob Adamson, relative of Jerry Jones & Robbie Ross; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Ellen Katsoulis, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Kathryn Glick and Steve Swanson, friends of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilke, Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes and family, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.*
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Orvis Holm, Joseph Crippen, Brenda Bartz, Carol Jane Brunette, and William Schlichting.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.**

- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** *We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.*
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us** *(no commemorations this week).*