

New Year, Same Promises
"God's Promise of Mission"

February 5, 2023

As We Gather

Our Epiphany worship series is focusing on God's enduring promises as we enter a new year with all of its changes. We find comfort, hope and strength that God's promises are sure.

Today we reflect on God's promise of mission. We are salt and light for a world in need. This isn't merely a task to be accomplished, but a reflection of who we are, the identity He has given us as His followers. How is He calling us to be salt and light today?

Welcome

+ Gathering +

"Dearest Jesus, We Are Here" LSB 592

1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.

2 Your command is clear and plain,
And we would obey it duly:
"You must all be born again,
Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit,
And My kingdom thus inherit."

3 Therefore we have come to You,
In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view;

May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever,
Yours on earth and Yours forever.

4 Gracious Head, Your member own;
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From Your side this branch forever.

5 Now into Your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav'nward soar;
May our hearts' desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!

Invocation

Baptism of Austin Neal Roberts

Prayer

Children's Church

First Reading: Isaiah 58:3-9a

³ ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,
‘and you have not seen it?
Why have we humbled ourselves,
and you have not noticed?’
“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.
⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.
You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for man to humble himself?
Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed
and for lying on sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived"
what God has prepared for those who love him"—
¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment, ¹⁶for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord
that he may instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

*This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that

unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You O Christ!*

Sermon

“God’s Promise of Mission”

Offering

Musical Offering

“Christ is the World’s True Light”

W. K. Stanton

Christ is the world's true light,
Its Captain of salvation,
The Day-star clear and bright
Of every man and nation;

New life, new hope awakes,
Where'er men own his sway;
Freedom her bondage breaks,
And night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet,
Their ancient feuds forgetting,
The whole round world complete,
From sunrise to its setting:

When Christ is throned as Lord,
Men shall forsake their fear,
To ploughshare bear the sword,
To pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name
Unite us all who own thee;
Cast out our pride and shame
That hinder to enthrone thee;

The world has waited long,
Has travailed long in pain;
To heal its ancient wrong,
Come Prince of Peace, and reign.

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John’s People and Families

Thomas, Tracy, Aidan, & Grayson Cushing
Matthew & Kyleigh Greely
Bradly, Shannon, Raegan, & Jaxson Lloyd
Noel Schmutz
Chris, Beth, Jaicee, & Seamus Vecera
Richie, Natalie, & Violet Allen
Audrey Nagle & Zoe Ewig
Sean, Michelle, & Quinn Grinnell
Michael, Robyn, Natalie, & Connor Mathison
Timothy, Amy, & Brooklyn Wheeler

+ The Service of Holy Communion +

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Lord, Lord God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As the glory of Your presence once filled Your ancient temple, so in the incarnation of Your Son Jesus Christ, You manifested the fullness of Your glory in human flesh.

We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your glory to us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood so that we may one day behold Your glory face to face

Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Grant us peace

Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and drink)*

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" LSB 702

1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!

2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.

4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!

"How Firm a Foundation" LSB 728

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

4 "When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

5 "Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne."

Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

Prayer

Benediction

"Rise, Shine, You People" LSB 825

1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

2 See, how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Memory Verse for This Week

"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Mark G. Heine
Lay Readers	Sarah Bartelt, Ruth Peterson
Communion Assistants	Bob & Kari Perna, Mike Newton, Rebecca Vitkus
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Andrew Schweiger
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson
Ushers	Penni Cremen, Sal Pagano
Projection Technician	Dawn Wahlers
Children's Church	Nina Montes, Joy Dahl