

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 5, 2012



The Son of God, Christ Jesus, Makes Us a New Creation

AS WE GATHER

The Lord alone “*is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth*” (Is. 40:28). He “*sits above the circle of the earth*” and “*stretches out the heavens like a curtain*” (Is. 40:22). Yet, His almighty power is demonstrated chiefly by His mercy and compassion. “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength” (Is. 40:29). The only-begotten son of the Father, the very Word by whom all things were made, becomes flesh and takes all the poverty and weakness of our sin and death upon Himself, bearing it in His Body to the Cross. As He dies for us there, He also raises us up, a new creation, in His Resurrection from the dead. Thus, by the preaching of this Word, He heals “*many who were sick with various diseases,*” and He casts out “*many demons*” (Mark 1:34,39). And His preaching continues through those whom He has sent, who are “*entrusted with a stewardship*” to “*preach the Gospel*” (1 Cor. 9:16-17). Thus we are set free by the Word of Christ, and we exercise our freedom in loving service to others.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, keep Your family, the Church, continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Isaiah 40:21-31 (*Do you not know? Do you not hear?*)

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? {22} He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. {23} He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. {24} No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. {25} "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. {26} Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. {27} Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? {28} Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. {29} He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. {30} Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; {31} but those who hope in the LORD

will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

1 Corinthians 9:16-27 (*I have made myself servant of all*)

Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! {17} If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. {18} What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. {19} Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. {20} To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. {21} To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. {22} To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. {23} I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. {24} Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. {25} Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. {26} Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. {27} No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Mark 1:29-39 (Jesus heals many and preaches in Galilee.)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. {30} Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. {31} So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. {32} That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. {33} The whole town gathered at the door, {34} and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. {35} Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. {36} Simon and his companions went to look for him, {37} and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" {38} Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." {39} So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

All scripture quotations from NIV Publishing House 1973

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

4939 W. Montrose Ave. Chicago, IL 60641

EPIPHANY FIVE

February 5, 2012

Order of Service

*LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK
DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE*

PRELUDE

HYMN p. 849
"Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness"

LITURGY p. 151

HYMN OF PRAISE p. 154

COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 40:21-31

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

VERSE p. 156

GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY Sts.1,2,5 p. 398
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

SERMON

NICENE CREED p. 158

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH p. 159

OFFERING

OFFERTORY p. 159

COMMUNION LITURGY p. 160

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" p. 525

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love To Me" p. 683

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" p. 643

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE p. 164
Thank the Lord...

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN p. 790
"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE