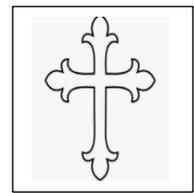


Perley Lutheran Parish  
February 7th, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany



Gathering Hymn: Gather Us In

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

Welcome and Announcements

- Continue to follow plans – watching numbers – we will adjust accordingly
- Sunday School packets going out next week – if you didn't get one for your children let us know so we can get you on the list time around
- Ash Wednesday – Feb 17 – safe means to impose ashes – if you wish to watch on line you can pick up your Ash Wednesday kit at the churches on Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:45-10:30.
- Reach out if you need something.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

**You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of +Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen**

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 made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20 (Read Responsively)

Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. **The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.** He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. **He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. **The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.** Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre. **He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.** He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry. **His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his**

**pleasure in the speed of a runner;** but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

First Reading Isaiah 40:21-31

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? 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; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. 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. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 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. 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"? 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. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 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.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:29-39, **Glory to you O Lord**

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 sunset, 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 out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Children's Message**

**Theme:** Jesus spent time in prayer and so should we.

**Object:** An item that must be recharged with use, such as a tablet or phone

I have my cell phone here. A lot of grownups have these don't they? As you probably know, it has a built-in battery, and it has to be recharged. You can't do much with it if the battery runs out. What do you have that needs to be recharged? **Pause for answers.**

People need to recharge their batteries, too. We work and play hard, and if we don't get enough rest, pretty soon we just don't have enough energy to do the things we need to do. **(Pretend to "power down" and need to be recharged.)**

Even Jesus had to recharge. Today we'll learn how He did that. As you listen to what happened, use your arm to tell how "charged" you think Jesus' "battery" is. *Have kids reach their hand up as high as they can, to show a full battery. They'll move it up or down, depending on if the battery is being used or recharged. Lowering it all*

*the way to the floor indicates the battery life is completely out. Remind kids to continue indicating the battery charge throughout.*

Jesus traveled all around Galilee preaching, driving out demons, and healing people. One day, Jesus and some of His disciples went to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was there in bed with a fever. Jesus took her by the hand and helped her up. All at once, the fever left her and she began to prepare a meal for everyone.

That evening many people came to Jesus to be healed of all sorts of diseases. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. That must've been a long day.

Jesus got up before sunrise the next morning and found a quiet place to pray and recharge His spirit. When Simon and the others woke up, they found Him and said, "Everyone is looking for You."

Jesus had recharged His batteries and was ready to go. He said to them, "Let's go to other towns and villages so that I can preach to them, too. That's what I came to do." So they traveled throughout the region of Galilee, and Jesus preached in the synagogues and healed people and cast out demons. *Comment on where kids are showing Jesus' battery to be.*

If Jesus thought it was important for Him to recharge His spiritual battery, it's important for us to do that, too. That's why we should spend time in prayer every day and come to church each week. *Invite kids to show where they feel their spiritual battery is right now, and invite them to briefly tell a person beside them why their battery is where it is.*

God, help us to remember that just as our bodies must be renewed by proper rest, our spirit must be renewed by spending time with You in prayer, Bible study, and worship. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **Message**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I talked a bit about how tired I am and how that seems to be the general feeling of so many of us right now last week – tired of how our world and lives are during this pandemic. If you ask someone right now "How are you?" most often they will not tell you how they are but rather how busy they are. Right??

All of us have had times when we feel like we have more to be done than we can manage. Like our day or our week is just too short? Feel like others have more control over your own time. Maybe you are one of those that have a hard time saying "no". That's a bad one for me. It's true, many of us have far more work than we could ever achieve in the time that we have – whether it's at home, work, school – there are always others who have expectations from us and may try to control our time. Emails, text messages, social media – and yes that occasional phone call – are all expected to be answered and dealt with as soon as possible.

It's hard because no one ever wants to disappoint others but we also can't allow the crazy busyness to rule our lives either. We have to have our own goals and priorities in how our life is and should be. And others shouldn't be allowed to pull us from those plans but how do we do that exactly?? Most often for me I have the "urgent matters" that I have to deal with as soon as possible and thus seem to push the "goals and overall plans" to the side – leaving those to be considered things I can do over the course of items. That's normal – it's natural to deal with the things in the NOW and take care of them first. Unfortunately, those things are really the most important ones and we find ourselves never really getting any closer to our goals in our lives. Don't feel alone – that's what Jesus was feeling pretty much too in our passage. He was in the same dilemma that we often face – prioritizing and not wanting to disappoint others and ourselves.

We pick up our story from last week – it’s Saturday morning and let me remind you that Jesus had just been teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum and as we learned last week he had driven out evil spirits while he was there. Honestly, believe it or not what he had been doing really wasn’t too unique. There had been many others before him teaching scripture like he was doing. Some too that had driven out evil spirits from those possessed. So why was Jesus’ actions different – well it was because he did so with authority – we talked about that a bit last week. What he was doing seemed quite radical to them, he didn’t have some big fancy ritual and magic trick to perform in order to drive those demons away like those Jewish exorcists had used. No Jesus had authority and simply spoke a word and the evil spirits obeyed.

When I think of this idea of speaking with authority I think back to when I was a child. When I was younger, my dad traveled a bunch during the week, and even when he wasn’t traveling he worked and my mother stayed home with us. I remember my mother always saying when we were not listening or misbehaving “wait until your father gets home” and boy that meant a lot back then. My dad would come into the house with that authoritative voice and we would just all fall line – well at least while we were little – teenage years were a bit different of course. You can maybe remember having someone in your life, a parent or grandparent, maybe a coach or a mentor that just by how they spoke to you, you knew what was expected and what could and should be done. They had authority in their voice.

Jesus leaves the synagogue and heads to his friends – Andrew and Simon Peter – for the Sabbath meal. When he arrives he is surprised to not see their mother in the kitchen preparing a meal for them but rather learns that she has fallen deeply ill and has a fever. The Sabbath meal is not only not prepared but the woman is quite ill and Jesus simply speaks a word, takes her hand and the woman is healed. The simple words and presence of Jesus has the authority and power all by themselves. One can only imagine then that Jesus authority was going to keep him busy as the word spread of what he was doing – teaching and healing. People were coming from far and wide - with their sick and possessed – to seek healing – even right over to Andrew and Simon’s house that day.

What does Jesus do when he sees all of these crowds rushing to see him? What does he do for all those looking for miracles? Well he doesn’t lock the door and tell them to go away now does he? Can you imagine looking out and seeing people sick and hurting as far as one can see? No, he is humble and has a heart full of compassion and he uses his power to heal and his authority to rid those with demons. He loves all of them and he does what he needs to, to ease their suffering as they turn to him in trust and with expectation. He doesn’t give anyone a signal or sign that he’s had enough of all of this. That he’s not concerned about what problems we are dealing with. No, he doesn’t push all those coming to see him aside, however there most definitely had to be a thought in the back of his mind about how pressing his mission is and that his following through with it really is what he was sent here for.

What our passage today doesn’t give us, is the verses after our initial text. Our gospel ended with Jesus curing the many sick and casting out the many demons. Let’s listen to the next few verses.

*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 out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.*

Makes me think of what I was talking about in the beginning of this message – the feeling of having so much to do with not enough time. The feeling of having people trying to control your plan and your time. Jesus gets up early – as it says it was still very dark – and sneaks away to a deserted place to pray. I’m sure Jesus was trying to find a way to get away from the crowds but I believe He is also seeking time with the one who sent him. For Jesus there is one sure fire way to seek and connect with his Father and that is through

prayer. Prayer with the Father I'm sure helps him re-focus, re-connect, re-commit and re-charge for the mission ahead.

That's not always so easy for many – to pray. Prayer can take great effort for some. Maybe even more effort than they want to give and we find ourselves having a hard time staying focused, concentrating on God's presence and pushing aside our thoughts about all the other things we could and should be doing. Sound familiar??? I have that problem many times too. Find my mind wandering in the middle of my talk with God. If we focus our prayer simply on talking to God we can be better at praying. Make it all about having a conversation with our Lord. Just allowing our time – short or long amount of time – to be WITH HIM.

We don't know how long Jesus had that day to be alone with his Father – it tells us that the disciples were out searching for him so they must have had some idea of where he would be. They instantly remind him that the crowds are again forming around the house and that they are all waiting for Him. Waiting for Jesus to make his appearance and to continue to heal and save those from demons. But Jesus has a different idea – he says *"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"* Jesus' time with his Father has reminded him of his mission and that He is here to preach the gospel everywhere. That God has victory over the power of evil and that the kingdom of God is breaking through. It is now that Jesus is preparing the way for what is to come and he needs to do that everywhere, not just at Andrew and Simon's house.

Jesus came to call us, individually and as the church. The Great Commission – the sending out of disciples to go and make more disciples – was given in order for us all to be empowered by becoming a part of it. To make that our great priority as well. The world would be conquered by love for God, compassion for our fellow men and women and that our world would be a place of justice and peace. He wanted us to look beyond the confines of what we know and what we and others try to control to a world of new horizons and a life beyond this material world. Jesus' greatest priority was to connect and re-connect us with God. Proclaim the good news that God's kingdom is at hand. When we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us "your kingdom come, your will be done" that is when we are aligning our priority in life with his great priorities. Let that be our prayer, our desire, our greatest goal, in the days, weeks and years that are yet to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: On Eagle's Wings #779 (blue)

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord

Who abide in His shadow for life

Say to the Lord

"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you

And famine will bring you no fear

Under His wings your refuge

His faithfulness your shield.

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings

Bear you on the breath of dawn

Make you to shine like the sun

And hold you in the palm of His hand.

You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you  
Near you it shall not come.

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

Apostles 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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen*

Prayers of the people: (Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**)

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world; prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons and lay leaders, for the whole church and its ministry, for the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or sadness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress and for all who call out to you. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For all of those who have been in relationship with Kirkebo and Nora Lutheran churches in the past and those who are now in relationship with our congregations on-line and from afar, we rejoice in our relationships with them and You, Lord. Help us all to share the good news and love our neighbors as we would love you. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, Sonya and Jeff, Wayne and Terry, Kirk and Steven, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Let us pray, **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us.  
Amen

Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Words of Institution and 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. 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*

God keeps adding places to the table. Come to the banquet that has no end!

After Communion Prayer

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story of unseen things above. Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, because I know it's true. It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story; I'll sing this them in glory. And tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

Dismissal – Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> – Services at 9am at Kirkebo (live streamed and in -person)

Sunday, February 21st – Services at 9am at Nora (live streamed and in-person) Annual Meeting at Nora

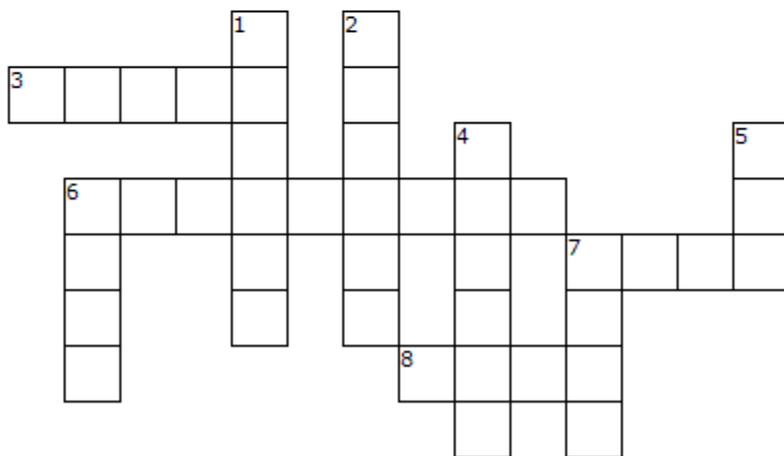
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# Jesus Ministers in Galilee

So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. Mark 1:39

Based on Mark 1:29-39



## ACROSS

3. A condition when the body temperature is higher than normal
6. A place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith
7. The body part used for holding things
8. To cure from sickness or disease

## DOWN

1. To deliver a sermon
2. Evil spirits
4. The time of day when the sun disappears below the horizon
5. A piece of furniture for sleeping
6. To be ill or have a disease
7. To give assistance; to aid

FEVER	HEAL	HAND	BED	SYNAGOGUE
SICK	HELP	PREACH	DEMONS	SUNSET

# Jesus Ministers in Galilee

So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. Mark 1:39

Based on Mark 1:29-39



V S H Z X U C N P N O D N J S  
I I Z J C R R T Q E M K K J I  
L M V J E H D B E D O C G F C  
L O I O X P N E Q B S P I C V  
A N P P S I C K R L Y D L Z Y  
G L R J Z W E W K R N X J E N  
E V E N I N G H O A A A G O G  
S C A V D Z X O H R G N H Y U  
X Q C O X A D E L Q O D E W J  
H T H R Q T O W N C G R L S A  
U E R J K Q T I E O U E P U M  
T J A H E R Y U P T E W E N E  
F O D L L S D E M O N S D S S  
M H H B E I U H S M I U F E J  
R N Z E A D P S F E V E R T A

FEVER  
SUNSET  
JOHN  
HEALED

SIMON  
VILLAGES  
SYNAGOGUE  
TOWN

HAND  
PREACH  
PEOPLE  
EVENING

DOOR  
BED  
JESUS  
JAMES

ANDREW  
DEMONS  
HELPED  
SICK