



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 8, 2025 Blended 10:45

As We Gather

What stands at the heart of the Christian faith? Quite simply the cross of Jesus. We preach Christ and Him crucified. Yes the cross is a stumbling block to some and foolishness to others. Yet to us who are being saved the message of Christ crucified is the very power of God.

Prelude: Handbells "Amazing Grace"
Welcome

+ PREPARATION +

Opening Song "Forever Jesus" SSP 85

My hymn of praise shall be forever Jesus
My firm foundation in shifting sands
My strength and hope
Through many fears and failures
The disappointments of the past
His constant love has held me fast

So for all my days
I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
Though the storms may rage
He is strong to save
He's the King forever Jesus

My song of joy will be forever Jesus
Who bore my suff'ring who made a way
His life a gift His death a precious ransom
That wipes the sinner's guilt away
And turns my night to glorious day

So for all my days I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
Though the storms may rage
He is strong to save
He's the King forever Jesus

My final breath shall be forever Jesus
When shadows lengthen before my eyes
My Lord and friend
Companion through the valley
When dearest ones are left behind
His hand will lead me to the Light

So for all my days I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
Though the storms may rage
He is strong to save
He's the King forever Jesus

When I meet his gaze
I will sing my praise
To the King forever Jesus
All my sorrows past I am home at last
With my King forever Jesus
With my King forever Jesus
With my King forever Jesus

Text: Matt Papa | Stuart Townend

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Invocation

A In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession

A Humble yourselves, then, before God; confess your sins to Him and implore His forgiveness.
C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed, I have continually transgressed Your Law. Too often I have sought the easy road of ignoring the needs of others and considered only myself and my wants.**

For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P As God's forgiven people, we join confidently in a sung prayer to our gracious God.

Song of Forgiveness "You are My King (I'm Forgiven)" SSP 32

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken
I'm accepted
You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again

Amazing love
How can it be
That You my King
Would die for me
Amazing love
I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You
In all I do I honor You

Text: Billy J. Foote

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+ WORD +

Prayer of the Day

A Lord of all, by Your hands all things were made. In Your Word is power over order and chaos, light and darkness, life and death. Grant Your Spirit that we become instruments of Yours by Your grace, humbly serving You through the perfect Prophet and Savior of this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament

Isaiah 58:3–9a

³“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,

a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
⁸Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem: "O Savior of Our Fallen Race" with oboe (Ken Wolski)

Gospel

Matthew 5:13–20

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is 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. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes 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 does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life \ddagger everlasting. Amen.**

Children's Song "This Little Gospel Light of Mine"

This Little Gospel Light of Mine
I'm going to let it shine:
This little Gospel light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine;
This little Gospel Light of mine,
I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine.
All around the neighborhood.
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel, No!
I'm going to let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: traditional
Text: Public domain

Children's Message

Hymn for Today "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" LSB 427

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

Sermon "One Simple Message" 1 Corinthians 1:1-2

Prayer of the Church

A In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. Let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For God's amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord's instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus; in peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Send down upon Your church the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee and staff. Grant grace and patience to all in our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You appointed to shepherd us. Lord, in Your mercy, in peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, *Dennis Erler, Cindy Maxwell, Armando Florez, Ami Gray, Teo McDonald, Doug Ebersol, Drake Williams, Joe Kuzma, Nilsa Colas, David Glass, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Cythina Estes Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor, Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert.* for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Our Lord who taught us to pray....

Lord's Prayer

C **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.

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offerings are Received "No Longer Slaves" Jason Young

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Ministry Moment Denton Freedom House - Jason Young

+ SACRAMENT +

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A O Jesus, as we gather in your name, remembering your death and your Last Supper, we beg you to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with your Word and Spirit. Holy Spirit, give us the faith to eat Christ's body and drink His blood as he calls us to do in His Word. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all faithful believers at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

In your grace, hear our prayers, save us and preserve our faith.
We honor and worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the only true God,
now and forever.

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Song of Sacrifice "Lamb of God" SSP 4

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

Text: Michael A Schmid

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Distribution Song "What He's Done" SSP 101

See on the hill of Calvary
My Savior bled for me
My Jesus set me free
Look at the wounds that give me life
Grace flowing from His side
No greater sacrifice

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

Sing for the freedom He has won
Even death is dead and done
His life has overcome
Speak say the Name above all names
Over every broken place
He is risen from the grave

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

Now on a throne of majesty
The Father's will complete
He reigns in victory
Sing hallelujah to the King
He is worthy to receive
All the worship we can bring

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done
I Praise God for what He's done

Text: Anna Golden | Jacob Sooter | Kristian Stanfill | Tasha Cobbs Leonard

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Distribution Hymn "Lift High the Cross" LSB 837

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

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Song of Thanksgiving "We Thank You Lord" SSP 5

We thank You Lord

We sing Your praise

We shout aloud alleluia.

Let all the world

seek Your face

and celebrate Your gifts of love.

For you fulfill your promises,
and lead us forth with songs of joy
and shouts of thanksgiving
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Text: Michael A Schmid

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have strengthened us by the grace that is in Christ Jesus through His true body and blood that has been received. Strengthen us by grace, amid suffering, to remain in faith toward You and show fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

A 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.

C Amen.

Song of Departure "In Christ Alone" SSP 38

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Dismissal (requested by Pastor Braun to be at the end of service.)

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **AMEN!**

Postlude

Acknowledgment

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