

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

## January 23, 2022

---

### ✧ PREPARATION ✧

#### HYMN

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

LSB 582

1 God’s Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.

#### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

People: **To You, O God, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and also by the good that we have failed to do. Our love for You and for our neighbors has been weak or even dead. By Your Law, You reveal the judgment we rightly deserve. Because Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has fulfilled Your Law on our behalf, we beg Your forgiveness and grace to restore us to life with You in the fellowship of all believers. Amen.**

Pastor: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! In the stead and by the command of our Savior, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### **✕ WORD ✕**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

<sup>1</sup> All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. <sup>2</sup>So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . .

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. <sup>6</sup>And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. . . .

<sup>8</sup>They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink

sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:16–30

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.  
<sup>17</sup>And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,  
<sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”  
<sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” <sup>22</sup>And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” <sup>23</sup>And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself.’ What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” <sup>24</sup>And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. <sup>25</sup>But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, <sup>26</sup>and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. <sup>27</sup>And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” <sup>28</sup>When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. <sup>29</sup>And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the

brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. <sup>30</sup>But passing through their midst, he went away.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”      LSB 839

- 1            O Christ, our true and only light,  
              Enlighten those who sit in night;  
              Let those afar now hear Your voice  
              And in Your fold with us rejoice.
  
- 2            Fill with the radiance of Your grace  
              The souls now lost in error’s maze;  
              Enlighten those whose inmost minds  
              Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.
  
- 3            O gently call those gone astray  
              That they may find the saving way!  
              Let ev’ry conscience sore oppressed  
              In You find peace and heav’nly rest.
  
- 4            Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
              Recall the wand’rers to Your fold.  
              Unite all those who walk apart;  
              Confirm the weak and doubting heart,
  
- 5            That they with us may evermore  
              Such grace with wond’ring thanks adore  
              And endless praise to You be giv’n  
              By all Your Church in earth and heav’n.

**SERMON**



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God of Zion, we give You thanks that You have arisen to show pity to our fallen world, setting us free from our sin and death. In Christ, the appointed time of favor has come for all people. Cause Your name to be declared among all peoples, that Your grace may not be rejected in our time, but received with delight in every place. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, Your people in the days of Ezra the priest returned to Your Word with attentive ears. Give us eagerness to hear Your Word with understanding, that our days may be sanctified and Your commandments put into practice among us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Father, You have arranged us as members of one body in Christ Jesus. Free us from jealousy or contempt toward our fellow Christians. Lead us to bestow honor on our weaker brothers, to suffer and rejoice together, and to serve in harmony as those baptized in one Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless all families and homes, that one generation may tell to the next the wonderful works of God in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, give wisdom and courage to all who govern our communities and country, that they may lead well, following Your will rather than man's whims. Grant us willingness to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious and compassionate Lord, comfort those who mourn. As our Great Physician, mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all in need [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# THE SUNDAY HERALD

## January 24 - 30, 2022

<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>THURSDAY</b>	
Jr. Confirmation	7:00pm	Prayer Group	3:00pm
AA	7:00pm	<b>FRIDAY</b>	
<b>TUESDAY</b>		Bulletin Assembly	10:00am
UWM Ministry	1:00pm	<b>SATURDAY</b>	
Building & Property	7:00pm	<b>Worship</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>
Bells	6:30pm	<b>SUNDAY</b>	
TOPS	8:30am & 6:00pm	<b>Worship</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		Adult Bible Class	9:45am
		<b>Worship</b>	<b>11:00am</b>

### BIBLE READINGS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-19  
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13  
 Holy Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

### 2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

We experienced two issues with the 2021 Contribution Statements. First, the email function will not work with our current version of Outlook, therefore, we are not able to email out statements. Therefore, anyone requesting their statement to be emailed will now receive a printed copy, which has been placed in your church mailbox. Secondly, there was an issue with offering contributions not being recorded for the weeks of August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>. They have now been recorded correctly, and an updated 2021 statement has been placed in your church mailbox. Please note, these revised 2021 Statements have the offering envelope numbers for 2022, we had no way to revert back to the 2021 envelope numbers. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Vandenberghe at 248-320-6704. Thank you.

### **ABOUT THE COVER**

As Jesus unrolled the scroll of Isaiah to read, those gathered saw the fulfillment of Scripture right before their eyes. The Spirit is upon Him—the Spirit who descended upon Him in His Baptism, drove Him out into the wilderness, and worked through His mission to lift up the poor, captive, blind, and oppressed. This is the year of the Lord's favor. In Christ, we stand in an eternity of the Lord's favor, for He has died and risen to lift us up, heal us, and set us free from sin and death.

### **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

I will be updating the church directory this month. Please be sure that I have your correct information. If you need to change or want to make sure that I have your correct information, just give me a call. Look for your new church directory in February. Thank you, Becky

### **HOLY CROSS 2022 WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

Congratulations to **PHYLLIS ULLMER**, our 2022 WOY. Thank you all for participating in the nomination process. We are proud to have Phyllis represent Holy Cross at the annual Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 11:00 am at the Macomb Sports & Expo Center in Warren MI. Reservation information will be forthcoming.

### **FOG CHALLENGE**

We are challenging you to offer your time periodically in helping with this project. Can you help in any of the following ways?

- 1) We will attempt to beat last year's numbers of making sandwiches for FOG. I have 12 dates available - let's discuss what date works for you.
- 2) Handling the 50 bottled waters for the teams which are all women is generally a problem could you help in this area?
- 3) Or perhaps you would like to make the lunch bag delivery to Family of God - we could use drivers.

If you could help in any of these areas, please contact Roberta Hanka (586-486-5645).

### **NEW HOPE FOOD PANTRY**

Our item of the month is juice. It can be put in the basket by the pantry door if you would like to contribute. Please join us at our next Food Pantry meeting Saturday, February 5th, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.