
Epiphany

Wars and rumors of wars seem to be a never-ending component of contemporary life. Peace seems impossible. Yet the Gospel calls us to be people who see beyond the rise and fall of nations and empires to see beyond to the King who reigns over all. In response to our future hope in the return of Christ, we live defiantly against the overwhelming messages of our world claiming that peace and justice are impossible. The posture of defiance dares to proclaim the peace of God's Kingdom in a war-torn world.

"And I awoke; and I understood that I should fight, not with beasts but against the devil; but I knew that mine was the victory."

-The Suffering of Perpetual and Felicity

"We will not go quietly into the night, we will not vanish without a fight. We're going to live on. We're going to survive."

-Independence Day

February 5, 2017

Collect

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Worship Participants

Pastor: Kory Plockmeyer ✦ Organ/Piano: Donna Brue ✦ Reader: David Kramer
 Sound: Eric Rowe ✦ Projection: Marty Vander Plaats
 CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171 ✦ LicenSing #627005

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 93:1-2

The Lord reigns, he is robed in majesty;

the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength.

The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.

Your throne was established long ago; You are from all eternity.

Your statutes stand firm;

holiness adorns your house for endless days, O Lord.

*Gathering Song: "O Worship the King" LUYH 2

*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

*Song of Praise: "Across the Lands" LUYH 775

We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession: Isaiah 58:1, 3b-4, 6-7 p.1152

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

In this and in so many other ways,

we confess our failures and shortcomings. Amen.

The cup for which we give thanks is our sharing in the blood of Christ.

The cup which we all share is our fellowship in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Distribution of the Elements: "Lift Up Your Hearts unto the Lord" LUYH 844

Psalm 103

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul; and forget not all his benefits--

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion.

We Offer our Gifts

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who need it.

Offertory: "Beneath the Cross" LUYH 825

We are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "Soon and Very Soon" LUYH 482

We Celebrate Communion

Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

And of our own, we have given you.

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring wine; **you give your blood.**

We bring our offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.

*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people. **We are redeemed.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving to God the Father

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

...Therefore with angels archangels, faithful ancestors and all in heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and singing:

Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" LUYH 538:1

The Institution by Christ the Son

...Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Holy Spirit

...As Jesus taught us, we pray together:

Our Father...

The Invitation to the Table

The bread which we break is our sharing in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 5:5, 9-10

Do not weep!

See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.

With his blood he has purchased people for God

from every tribe and language and people and nation.

He has made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.

Thanks be to God!

Song of Assurance: "When Peace Like a River" LUYH 451

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "Come, Lord Jesus"

***Come, Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, come, Lord Jesus:
come and be born in our hearts.***

***Come, Immanuel, come, Immanuel, come, Immanuel:
come and be born in our hearts.***

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Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Matthew 24:1-35 p.1538

Sermon: "The Enduring Word" Pastor Kory Plockmeyer

We Respond with Thanksgiving

*Song of Response: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" LUYH 405:1,2,4,6

Offertory Prayer

We Offer our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the General/Building Fund. The General Fund keeps our church operating and pays for a wide range of denominational ministries while the Building Fund offerings are used to cover major project expenses for the church.