

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Human Relations/Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Sunday
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship

Leader: When fear is holding you back,

People: Come and see, and follow Christ.

Leader: When despair has brought you down,

People: Lift up your head, and follow Christ.

Leader: When all seems lost and the world is too harsh,

People: Take his hand, and follow Christ.

Leader: In this time of worship

People: Let us follow Jesus, and know that Jesus is with us.

All: Christ has come before us, Christ is with us, and Christ will come again. Amen.

Confession

Faithful God, we have broken promises, forgotten commitments, and failed relationships. We have set out with good intentions but have not followed through. Forgive us for falling short and turning away from You. Help us to seek forgiveness from each other for our own shortcomings. Renew in us a spirit of faithfulness and help us to trust in You for our own forgiveness, so that we may learn to forgive others. In the name of Jesus, who remains faithful even when we do not, we pray. Amen.

Assurance

No greater sign of presence and love could be given than that which God has given in Jesus the Christ. This is the revelation of God, the miracle of grace bestowed upon us to set us free from the burden of our sin. Praise and thanks be to God!

Hymn:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

#423, vs 1 & 3

1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain:

Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.[Refrain]

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Lesson: John 1:29-42

The Lamb of God

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The First Disciples of Jesus

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Silent Prayer

Prayer (repeat “May we love as you love.”)

Holy God, may we hear your voice
In the stillness of night, in clatter of day
You call us, and we respond,
Here I am!
May we follow you and
May we love as you love.

Holy One, through trials and turbulence
Make us steady, your hands
Holding strong the fragile and weak
May we love as you love.

Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives
Be food for the hungry, bread
Clothing, shelter, fire, water, Word
May we love as you love.

God of justice, remove the barriers
Of our lives that keep us from
One another, barriers we construct
Based on skin color, religion, or gender
May we hear, and follow, graciously.
May we love as you love.

Loving God, take this day our fears, our
Worries, distractions, and all
Turn them into grace and mercy,
And, following the example of Martin Luther King, Jr.
and all your Saints,
May we love as you love.

The 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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”* #593, vs 1 & 3

1 Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Benediction

Postlude