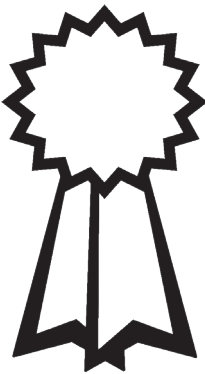


Epiphany 5

February 4, 2024

Epiphany 5 (Year B)

God’s true nature is revealed in his tenacity and tirelessness on behalf of the sick and brokenhearted. As Jesus began his public ministry, he traveled throughout Galilee healing the ill and casting out demons. Paul declared that Christ had placed him in a race of faith. His task was to preach the Good News, but it was not his will for his life, rather it was the Lord’s will. To run with Christ is to win the race.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31 **Who Can Be Compared to the Holy One?**

Nothing escapes God’s notice. He who sits on high watches over the whole creation, the prophet wrote. Though the young grow tired and weary, the Lord never wearies. He is always present, giving strength to those who need it and restoring power to the powerless. The prophet cried out, “Have you not heard? Do you not know?”

Psalms 147:1-11 **Great is Our Lord**

The Lord is worthy to be praised, sang the psalmist, for he builds up the weak, restores the exiles, and binds the brokenhearted. He has named all the stars and knows each one intimately. Our God is peaceful and he provides for all our needs.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27 **I Must Preach the Gospel**

Paul discussed his duty to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. He said he must do it, even though he may be free not to. It was his compulsion to proclaim Christ so that all people might know this saving grace, and yet it was not his will, but Christ’s. Paul urged believers to run the race in such a way as to win, with discipline and purpose, striving for the heavenly prize.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-39 **Jesus, the Healer**

Soon after Jesus called his disciples to come and follow him, he healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a severe fever. After sunset many came to find him, bringing loved ones who were ill or demon possessed to be healed by Jesus. Jesus forbade any of the demons to speak to his true identity.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.
- Consider adding a time to today’s service for private prayer and anointing with oil. Set up a few stations in the worship space where individuals or families may go to have someone pray for them. Soft music might be played in the background. This could take place during communion, after communion, or even after the sermon. There is no right (or wrong) place to put it, so use your judgment as to how it might flow best in your context. Give worshipers a few weeks notice that this will take place.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness	---	---	849	843	---	---
Have Thine Own Way	---	---	---	---	244	244
On Eagles’ Wings	---	779	727	787	207	207
I Love to Tell the Story	390	---	---	661	265	265
Arise, Your Light Has Come	---	652	---	314	---	---
Our Father, By Whose Name	357	---	863	640	---	---
Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies	265	---	873	553	164	164
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee	211	---	631	---	---	web

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and “web” means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Great Are You Lord
(CCLI# 6460220)

Healing is in Your Hands
(CCLI# 5677423)

Healing is Here
(CCLI# 6254797)

Living Hope
(CCLI# 7106807)

Better Word
(CCLI# 7130729)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.