

February 6, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Helping Your Neighbor

The question asked in today's gospel story is very significant for our twenty-first century world: Who is my neighbor?

Animosity between people has existed throughout human history. A natural human response when threatened is to turn inward toward what is familiar and toward those who share a common identity. In order to guard ourselves against the unknown we tend quickly to draw lines of distinction that identify us by our family, nation, religion, or ethnicity. Those like us are our neighbors.

But the gospel for this Lord's day calls us to redefine what it means to be a neighbor. A neighbor is not merely the person next door who can be trusted with a key to our home or the one who sits next to us at church. Jesus shows us that a neighbor is anyone who helps another human being in need. This leads to surprising opportunities.

In the story, the identity of the man who was beaten and left half dead is not specified. He is a human being who was victimized by robbers. Jesus does not explain why the priest and Levite did not stop to help him. When the surprising opportunity to be a neighbor to this man in need presented itself, they chose to pass by on the other side. Instead, it was a Samaritan, an outsider whose religion was considered impure by many of Jesus' contemporaries, who stopped to help the man in need. This outsider became Jesus' example of what it means to be a neighbor.

As we walk the pathways of our daily lives during this coming week we too may be surprised by opportunities to be a neighbor to another human being who is in need. Jesus points us to the good Samaritan and says, "Go and do likewise."

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Annette Slater - Music Director

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Organist

Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

February 6, 2022 - 10:30 am

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Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / Catechism
10:30 am	Late Worship

Covid Guidelines: If you are fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear a mask. However, if you have not been vaccinated, please continue wearing a mask. We have some available near the entryway if you don't have one.

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the lounge (middle floor of the educational building – turn right out of the door by the choir loft).

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Class: Class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the Narthex (lobby) by the telephone. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office or the Narthex (lobby) and place it in the offering plate.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Please purchase full size items.

dish soap	shampoo, child	disposable razors
paper towel	laundry soap	toothbrush, adult
toilet paper	fabric softener sheets	toothpaste, adult
tissues	body lotion	sanitary pads
deodorant	body soap	band aids
shampoo, adult		

This is a list of the items that will provide a month's worth of hygiene supplies to families or individuals in our neighborhood to help them stay clean and healthy. We always welcome any donations from our congregation members. **If you would like to donate items, please donate only full size products as sample sizes will not last a month.**

If you would prefer a Pantry volunteer to do the shopping for you, we welcome monetary donations. Please make out checks to First St. John Lutheran Church and write Personal Needs Pantry on the memo line.



The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" No. 539
Postlude Jacob Henry

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

GUEST ORGANIST

Jacob Henry

GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Jim Dumke, Genacross

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Tom Hartford

ELDERS

Jeff Ladd, Dave Wilbarger

SOUND BOARD

Andy Hodges

ACOLYTES

Mckenna Cummerow, Aubrey Swartz

ORDER OF WORSHIP—10:30 am

Prelude Jacob Henry
Ringing of the Bell

Opening Song "Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun" No. 557

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Most holy God, the earth is filled with your glory, and before you angels and saints stand in awe. Enlarge our vision to see your power at work in the world, and by your grace make us heralds of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Announcements

Tom Hartford, guest presenter

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-13

This reading recounts Isaiah's commission as a prophet in Jerusalem during the second half of the eighth century B.C. Isaiah's intense experiences were part of his credentials to announce God's judgment and warn God's people.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the LORD sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out."⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"⁹And he said, "Go and say to this people:

'Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.'

¹⁰Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,

so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed."

¹¹Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said:

"Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹²until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Dr. Jim Dumke, Genacross

Sermon Hymn

"O Zion, Haste"

No. 668

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

Chancel Choir

"At His Name"

Joel Raney

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Intercessory Prayer

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Alleluia Verse

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow
And peace is understood.*

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 10.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

In this well-known parable, Jesus shifts the focus of concern from speculation concerning who is one's neighbor to the treatment of one's neighbor with mercy.

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

³⁶"Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

¹³Even if a tenth part remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled."

The holy seed is its stump.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**²I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

³On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

**⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Paul stresses that the resurrection is not a novelty. Along with the story of Jesus' crucifixion and burial, this witness has shaped the whole church from the time of the apostles to the present. The Christian church is solidly founded upon this good news.

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.