

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
Testimony of John the Baptist

February 13, 2022

8:30 AM

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *{Front Center}* (Pastor Rob)

L: The coming of Christ was not, and is not, widely welcomed. Wherever there is epiphany there will also be darkness: the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily; the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom; the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it; the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters;

L: Most holy and loving God,

C: please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore your light within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we humbly ask, "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us." Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen!

L: My friends, Epiphany is good news! The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us. Jesus came into this world to save sinners. In his name, I declare to you: Yours sins are forgiven!

C: Thanks be to God!

+OPENING HYMN

"Listen, God is Calling"

ELW #513

Refrain

Listen, listen, God is calling,
Through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort, and joy.

Listen, listen, God is calling,
Through the Word inviting,
Offering forgiveness,
Comfort, and joy.

Verse 1

Jesus gave his mandate:
Share the good news
That he came to save us
And set us free

Refrain

Verse 2

Let none be forgotten
Throughout the world.
In the triune name of God
Go and baptize.

Refrain

Verse 2

Help us to be faithful,
Standing steadfast,
Walking in your precepts,
Led by your Word.

Refrain

+GREETING *{Front Center}* (Britt Halaas)

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

(Assistant may be seated if not cantoring)

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

L: O God, you raised up St. John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord. Make us faithful to truth and justice, as you did your servant. Prepare us with a true sense of repentance to receive your grace and salvation. Increase your life within us so we too may serve you as John did.

C: Amen.

WORD

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another, and compare themselves with one another, they do not show good sense. We, however, will not boast beyond limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you. For we were not overstepping our limits when we reached you; we were the first to come all the way to you with the good news of Christ. We do not boast beyond limits, that is, in the labors of others; but our hope is that, as your faith increases, our sphere of action among you may be greatly enlarged, so that we may proclaim the good news in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in someone else’s sphere of action. ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’ For it is not those who commend themselves that are approved, but those whom the Lord commends.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

+THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:22-36

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized —John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.” John answered, “No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.’ He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.” The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God’s wrath.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

+HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Son of God, Our Christ”

ELW #584

Verse 1

The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
Shared human life and toiled throughout the day;
From common folk he called the twelve to be
Coworkers in his sacred ministry.

To help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
Declaring to the world his holy name.

Verse 4

In city street, in town, or on the soil,
May each serve Christ in faithful daily toil,
And in each thought and kindly word and deed,
Obey Christ’s call and go where he shall lead.

Verse 2

In ev’ry test, in trials manifold,
These servants witnessed, by their faith made bold;
And with the gifts and talents which they brought
The church was founded and God’s message taught.

Verse 5

Where’er we find our witness should be made,
What-e’er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,
That we may gladly give for thee our best
And find each task divinely sent and blest.

Verse 3

Today, as then, Christ summons us to dare
To follow boldly and his work to share,

+THE APOSTLES’ CREED {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

Screen

C: 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 PRAYERS {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

Screen

After each petition:

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

+THE LORD’S PRAYER {*Front Center*} (*Pastor Rob*)

Screen

C: 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.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

L: In this time of reflection and response you are invited to fill out a welcome card. Share any reflections, questions, or prayers on the back. Also, take this time to prepare your offering. For those gathered, the collection plates are in the front and back. For those online please go to our website stlukesbloomington.org and there is a link to give at the bottom of every page. Enjoy this time.

“Bwana Asifiwe” (“Praise the Lord”)
St. Luke’s Choir

arr. Mark Burrows

SENDING

+SHARING OF THE PEACE {*Front Center*} (*Pastor Rob*)

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

C: And also with you.

L: For all who are gathered, let us stand and take a moment to welcome everyone with a wave of peace. For those of you online, please share a word of peace in the comment or chat. Most of all as we go out into the world may we greet others as people of peace.

+BENEDICTION {*Front Center*} (*Pastor Rob*)

L: May the eternal light of God guide you in the way of the peace, through the power of Holy Spirit now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”

ELW #318

Verse 1

Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever dear to choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.

Verse 3

Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin shall flow.

Verse 2

Alleluia you are sounding,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
Bring us to your jubilee;
Here by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles still are we.

Verse 4

In our hymns we pray with longing:
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep glad Easter
With the faithful saints on high;
There to you forever singing
Alleluia joyfully.

+DISMISSAL {*Front Center*} (*Britt Halaas*)

L: Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Flowers given by:

*Marilyn and Larry Nelson
in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary*

*Frank Arellono
In honor of Diane and Frank's 54th wedding anniversary,
Valentine's Day and Diane's Birthday*