

UNCOVERED

REJECTION IS NOT THE EXCEPTION

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 2022

UNCOVERED

We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to mankind's natural assumptions about him. In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be discovered by us. Rather, it needs to be uncovered for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. Week after week, surprising truths about Jesus our King and life in his kingdom will be uncovered.

THEME FOR THIS SUNDAY

When one proclaims God's Word, typically the intentions are good. We want others to know the joy of salvation and the love of Christ. Therefore, it can be surprising to us when God's Word is met with apathy or rejection by those who hear it. It's easy to conclude that when the Word of God offends human minds and hearts (including our own), something has gone wrong. The truth that is uncovered this week is that rejection of Jesus' words is not the exception but the rule. Jesus' words will always offend. However, we will see that God can use even the rejection of his Word for good.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate, your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered.
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing.
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing.
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us.



He comes to us, by death and sin sur -
 All men and wom - en, who by guilt are
 To all the world go out and tell the
 Tell how the Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry



round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

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Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 156

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

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THE WORD

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–6

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

⁴Then they will rebuild ancient ruins.
They will raise up what was formerly devastated,
and they will renew ruined cities,
 which have been devastated for generations.
⁵Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock,
and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers.
⁶You will be called the LORD's priests.
You will be named ministers of our God.
You will eat the wealth of nations,
and you will boast about their riches.

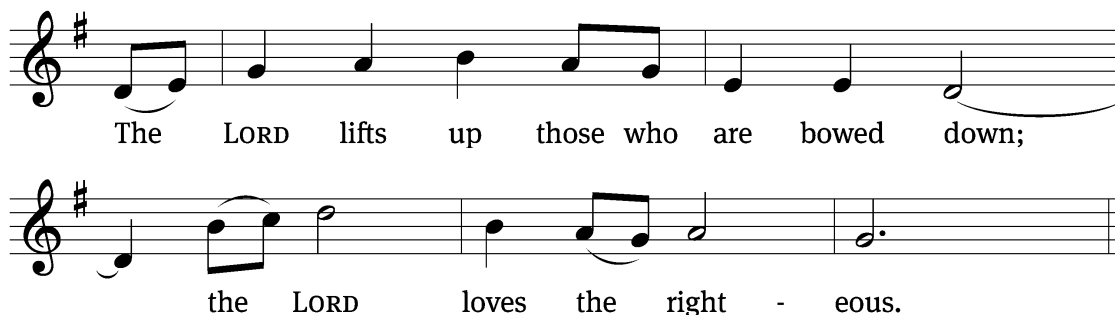
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

146A I Will Praise the Lord All My Life

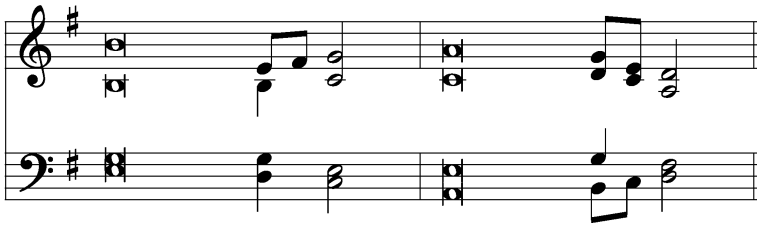
Psalm 146A

Refrain



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the right - eous.

Tone



I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God. *Refrain*

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Second Reading

Acts 4:23–31

²³After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, “Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:

Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
²⁶The kings of the earth take their stand,

and the rulers are gathered together
against the Lord
and against his Anointed One.

²⁷“For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

²⁹“Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:18



Refrain

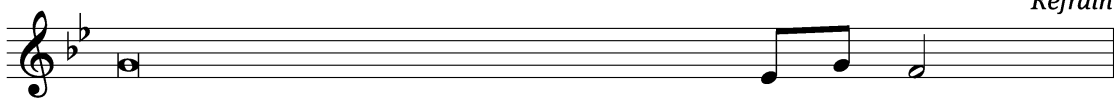


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The Spirit of the Lord is on me,



because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

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¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

²⁰He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²²They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum." ²⁴And he said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -
 2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on
 3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and
 4 Hear now the Mas - ter's word to those who bear his



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in
 high; to live our hu - man life he came, our
 grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to
 name: "So send I you," till all have heard, "make



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and
 hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly
 those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and
 known, de - clare, pro - claim!" Go forth in all the



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the
 Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to
 peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es
 earth; em - brace the path he trod with Christ be -



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.
 share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.
 sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.
 side as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow

in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

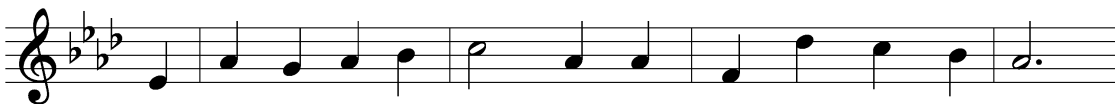
Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

Offering

743 I Hear the Savior Calling

CW 743



1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;
2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,
3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:
4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;
5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see
a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.
to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.
from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.
each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,
The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree
Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key
Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,
And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!
that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!
we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!
be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!
pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

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Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.



1 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who are in need.
 2 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who live in fear,
 3 Go forth and preach the gos - pel; go spread the news a - broad!



As wit - ness to the Sav - ior, go teach by word and deed.
 and share the joy - ful mes - sage that God is al - ways near.
 Pro - claim to ev - 'ry na - tion the great - ness of our God.



The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us to de - clare
 The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us forth in peace
 The Spir - it is up - on us, that all may un - der - stand



good news of God's for - give - ness to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
 to bring the poor glad ti - dings, that mer - cy may in - crease.
 the prom - ise of sal - va - tion re - vealed to ev - 'ry land.

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