

A photograph of a suspension bridge over a body of water at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and long shadows. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds. The bridge's structure is silhouetted against the bright sky. The water in the foreground is dark with some ripples and reflections of the sun.

I DO IT
all
FOR THE SAKE
OF THE *gospel*, SO THAT I MAY
SHARE IN ITS *blessings*.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:23, NRSV

ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 7, 2021 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

The apostle Peter was impressed with Jesus' power to heal the sick and His popularity was growing rapidly. But when Jesus seemed uninterested in capitalizing on that popularity and to continue on preaching elsewhere, Peter didn't understand. Jesus did not come only to heal or to make "a kingdom of this world" (*John 18:36*). He came to take our burdens and sins to the cross; to pay the price that delivers the whole world from sin and death. We "proclaim the Lord's Death until He comes." For by the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus the Grace of God appears to all.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

The Day Thou Gavest – E. L. Diemer

GREETING

❖ **INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Have you not known? Have you not heard?

C **The LORD is the Everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.**
(Isaiah 40:28)

P The LORD heals the brokenhearted

C **and binds up their wounds.**

P Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;
C **His understanding is beyond measure.** (*Psalm 147:3, 5*)

❖ **SONG**

Great Are You, Lord – D. Leonard, J. Ingram, L. Jordan

Verse

**You give life, You are love, You bring light to the darkness;
You give hope, You restore ev'ry heart that is broken
and great are You, LORD**

Refrain

**It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise; we pour out our praise
it's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise to You only**

Chorus

**And all the earth will shout Your praise; our hearts will cry,
these bones will sing “Great are You, Lord!” (repeat)**

Refrain

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❖ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P O God, You have come to call even us to repentance and faith, to Salvation and Life. We confess and repent of our sins, especially our spiritual blindness and our small and selfish concerns.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P We have tried to keep our faith a private concern, seeking Your Blessings only for ourselves.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P We have neglected prayer and concern for the world in need around us.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P "The Lord gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength." *(Isaiah 40:29)*

Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a Called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the Grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the Command of my Lord Jesus 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.

C **Amen.**

❖ **KYRIE**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for the salvation won by the Lamb of God, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all who have had the light of the Gospel shine on them, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who respond to the Call of God, offering here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, Gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

❖ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.
O Lord, keep Your family, the Church, continually in the true faith
C **that, relying on the hope of Your Heavenly Grace, we may ever be defended by Your Mighty Power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:21-31

(The Lord's understanding is unsearchable.)

Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground, than He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.
“To whom will you compare Me?
Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One.
Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?

He Who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.
Because of His Great Power and Mighty Strength, not one of them is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?
Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the Everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and His Understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

On Eagles' Wings

Psalm 91

LSB 727, vs. 1-2 & 4

**1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.**

Refrain

**4. For to His angels He's given a command To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

Refrain

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EPISTLE

I Corinthians 9:16-27

(We strive to be all things to all people to share the Gospel and its blessings.)

Yet when I preach the Gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the Gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it. Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the Law I became like one under the Law (though I myself am not under the Law), so as to win those under the Law. To those not having the Law I became like one not having the Law (though I am not free from God's Law but am under Christ's Law), so as to win those not having the Law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

I do all this for the sake of the Gospel,
that I may share in its blessings.
Do you not know that in a race all the
runners run, but only one gets the prize?
Run in such a way as to get the prize.
Everyone who competes in the games
goes into strict training.
They do it to get a crown that will not last;
but we do it to get a crown that will last
forever.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **VERSE**

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their
synagogues and casting out demons. Alleluia.** *(Mark 1:39)*

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 1:29–39

(Jesus heals many and preaches in Galilee.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they
went with James and John to the home of
Simon and Andrew.

Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a
fever, and they told Jesus about her.

So He went to her, took her hand and
helped her up. The fever left her and she
began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people
brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-
possessed.

The whole town gathered at the door,

Therefore I do not run like a man running
aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating
the air.

No, I beat my body and make it my slave
so that after I have preached to others,
I myself will not be disqualified for the
prize.

and Jesus healed many who had various
diseases.

He also drove out many demons, but He
would not let the demons speak because
they knew who He was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still
dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went
off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

Simon and his companions went to look
for Him, and when they found Him, they
exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for You!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-- to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lea Webb, Director of Children's Ministry

SONG

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849

**1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.**

**2. Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

**3. Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.**

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SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Real Issues, Real Grace, 4: God's Love Languages at Work through Us

I Corinthians 9:16-27

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 14 of this worship folder.)

❖ **CREED**

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

❖ **GREETING OF PEACE**

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving at rlcary.org or by postal mail.

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Lion and the Lamb – B. Brown, B. Johnson

**1. He's coming on the clouds; kings and kingdoms will bow down,
and every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise -
for who can stop the Lord Almighty?**

Refrain

**Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah;
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles,
and every knee will bow before Him!
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
for the sins of the world - His blood breaks the chains,
and ev'ry knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb,
ev'ry knee will bow before Him!**

**2. So open up the gates; make way before the King of kings
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free -
for who can stop the Lord Almighty?**

Refrain

Chorus

Who can stop the Lord Almighty; who can stop the Lord Almighty? (repeat)

Refrain

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❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the Church around the world, and all people according to their needs.
- C Gracious God, so often we grow tired as we are burdened by concerns, caught between responsibilities, and unsure of the correct action to take. Visit, relieve, and strengthen us so that we may rise above our problems, serve You, and care for the people around us.**
- P Heavenly Father, we pray Your Protection and Guidance for the Church around the world. Where there is opportunity to meet the physical needs of the people, open doors of service. Where the Gospel may be proclaimed, grant boldness to Your servants. Where the Church is oppressed, give courage to new Christians as they wait for the day when the cross may be raised visibly for all to see.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Dearest Father, cause us to respect all that You make, to care for all people, and to celebrate the life that shines through the deepest darkness, undimmed and eternal. Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the Sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

C **Amen.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

LSB 846

1. Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death, O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute, The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery, The sick with fevered frame.

2. Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health, Gave speech and strength and sight;
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed Revealed You, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless, Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain, As by Gennes'ret's shore.

3. O be our great deliv'rer still, The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong May praise You evermore.

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Kingsfold – R. Lind

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Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
Assisting Minister.....Lea Webb, Director of Children’s Ministry
Organist/Pianist/Vocalist.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Pianist/Vocalist.....Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Leader
Vocalist..... Rebecca Melland-Kuo, Barbara Moll
Lector.....Suzi Heffner



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Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Real Issues, Real Grace, 4: God's Love Languages at Work through Us
(1 Corinthians 9:16–27)

Whether or not God has called us to leave home for another land, we are called to serve with the Gospel of Christ as people who meet others *where they are at* rather than where we feel they should be. Our calling is to be pioneers of the heart...so that we might bring a saving Word of life to others and gain them *there*, on behalf of the Kingdom. After all, Jesus gave up all for you and me...and did so not based on our meeting Him halfway. Instead, “while we were still *sinners*, Christ died, for us” (Rom 5:8).

1. **Today is the fourth and final part from our series on 1 Corinthians.** The focus for our series today is that of participating in God's mission to a lost world.
2. ***St. Paul is bound to preach the Gospel as _____ of no one, yet _____ of all (9:19).*** St. Paul's is a calling, not a job. His life's work is as one loved by God in Christ, rather than one who must either prove something to himself or become what others expect him to become. He works to be all things to all people *for the purpose of saving some*. That was God's love language at work through Paul.
3. ***By the grace of God we are freed to live more than an _____ (9:26): the Spirit at work in us keeps our eyes focused on an _____.*** The Olympian runner runs with determination. Is it our calling to become more comfortable in life...or to serve others with integrity? Is it our calling to surround ourselves with like-minded people, or be sent into the world to make a difference?
4. ***God's love language at work through RLC missionaries Mark and Megan Mantey***
5. ***Jesus was _____ to live any way he chose yet sacrifice Himself to be _____ on a cross) for us.*** In Jesus we too are slaves of no one, yet servants of all. We seek to be the way God speaks His love language to the world, through us.