



PLUM Worship

Sermon at Nazareth

January 17, 2021
10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The Spirit is with us!
Bringing good news
Of wealth for the poor,
Release for the captives,
And sight for the blind.
The oppressed are now free,
Receiving God's favor.
The Spirit is with us!

HYMN *All are Welcome*

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive*

*Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew*

*Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

*Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet*

*Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach
And live the Word they've known*

*Here the outcast and the stranger
Bear the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

*Let us build a house where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
As words within the Word.*

*Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.
Pause for silence and reflection.

God of light,

You light a fire within us and ask us to shine, but we are quick to hide and make excuses. We shrink from challenges, avoid responsibility, and deny the goodness of your creation. We seek hollow praise and then don't believe it. Forgive us for hiding our God-given light and remaining self-absorbed.

Children of God, never fear, for you have always lived in the mercy of your creator. Hear the words of absolution and believe them: you are forgiven, you are made whole, you are restored to God. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PEACE

*The minister and the assembly greet each other in the
peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Powerful God, You stir up your people with
challenging words. Open our ears to hear truly the truth
which you bring, and may it shake up our lives so that we
can be your faithful witnesses in the world. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Psalm 146

¹Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises
to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom
there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that
very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose
hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in
them; who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to
the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up
those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the
orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he
brings to ruin.

¹⁰The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all
generations. Praise the Lord!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Luke 4:14-30

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Readers: Narrator, Jesus, Crowds

Narrator: Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit,
returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through
all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their
synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came
to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the
synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He
stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was
given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place
where it was written:

Jesus: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has
anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent
me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of
sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim
the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Narrator: And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the
attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue
were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them,

Jesus: Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your
hearing.

Narrator: All spoke well of him and were amazed at the
gracious words that came from his mouth. They said,

Crowds: Is not this Joseph’s son?

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb,
“Doctor, cure yourself!” And you will say, “Do here also
in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at
Capernaum.”

Narrator: And he said,

Jesus: Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the
prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many
widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven
was shut up three years and six months, and there was a
severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to
none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.
There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the
prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except
Naaman the Syrian.

Narrator: When they heard this, all in the synagogue
were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the
town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their
town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff.
But he passed through the midst of them and went on his
way.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR JOHN GROPP

HYMN *Hark, The Glad Sound*

*Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.*

*He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.*

*He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Sometimes we think we know you and your scriptures so well that there is nothing new to be learned. Keep us humble, open and receptive to the continual renewal of your Spirit among us. God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

As we honor the memory of your servant Martin Luther King, Jr. and the prophetic life he lived, inspire us to continue his work for justice and champion his dream that all persons would be regarded as equals. God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

You created all that we can see and experience, O God, and those things which we can neither see nor understand. Make us seekers and discoverers in your amazing world, and guide us to use our own creative powers for good and noble causes. God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who feel estranged from familiar people and places in their lives. Reunite estranged people and mend broken relationships, and be especially with those whose names we bring before you for healing... God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

We commemorate St. Antony of Egypt and St. Pachomius, contemplatives and rejuvenators of your Church. Bring us faithfully with them to your promised eternal rest, where we will live with all your children, embraced by unending love. God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Grant confidence and zeal to members of our PLUM congregations that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. God of truth, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and shed light on our path as we seek to walk in your ways and bring glory to you through your son Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray.

As Jesus offered his whole life to you, so move our hearts to dedicate all we have to your service. Bless these tokens of our gratitude for all that we have been given in this life, and of our desire that all may be fed, clothed, and freed from the things which bind them, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

HYMN *In Christ There is No East or West*

*In Christ there is no east or west,
 in him no south or north,
 but one great fellowship of God
 throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
 their high communion find;
 his service is the golden cord
 close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith,
 whate'er your race may be.
 All children of the living God
 are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west,
 in him meet south and north;
 all Christly souls are one in him
 throughout the whole wide earth.*

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

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.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you.

Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you.

Amen.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE WE ARE CALLED

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

PLUM Bible Studies: Tuesday at 1pm and Thursday at 7pm via zoom. This week we will focus is on chapter 2 of the book of Ruth. This study will run until Lent. Please join us!

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and Bible Studies:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM Pastoral Team:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Paul Koch	773-848-1470
Minister Mandy Gilberti	814-241-8150

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to: **Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries, 405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110**