

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today's gospel reading reveals the sacred, healing power of the common, ordinary gesture of Jesus taking us by the hand to lift us up. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

## **RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 7, 2021  
Our Common Prayer at Home**

*You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.*

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

<sup>22</sup>It is God who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

<sup>23</sup>who brings the great to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when God blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

<sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

The one who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because God is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
The Lord does not faint or grow weary;  
the understanding of God is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>The Lord gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:*  
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210207/playlist>

## **PSALM 147:1-11, 20c**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the | brokenhearted  
and binds | up their wounds.  
<sup>4</sup>The LORD counts the number | of the stars  
and calls them all | by their names.  
<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;  
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts | up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked | to the ground.  
<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD| with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp | to our God,  
<sup>8</sup>who covers the heav- | ens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the mountains.  
<sup>9</sup>God provides food | for the cattle  
and for the young ravens | when they cry.  
<sup>10</sup>God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,  
<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. <sup>20c</sup>| Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

<sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jewish people I became as a Jew, in order to win the Jewish people. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.

<sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-36**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>Jesus came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sundown, they brought to Jesus all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

<sup>38</sup>Jesus answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

*Mark wants to say in every way he can that God's salvation is hidden in the cross. This is what scholars have called "the messianic secret." There are two instances of the secret in today's text: Jesus silences the demons because they know who he is; and, after "the whole city" has been gathered at his door, he goes away alone to a deserted place. But this hidden Jesus then goes on to all the neighboring towns. In our day, the salvation that is in the cross is still hidden. But we proclaim that the crucified one is risen and goes on to all the world. He comes here to the house of our church and to our own homes. We are the weak ones, sick with a fever. In the power of the Spirit, Jesus is the presence of the God who strengthens the weak. Jesus is himself the gospel given away for free. We are healed now, so that we — like Peter's mother-in-law — may rise to serve others.*

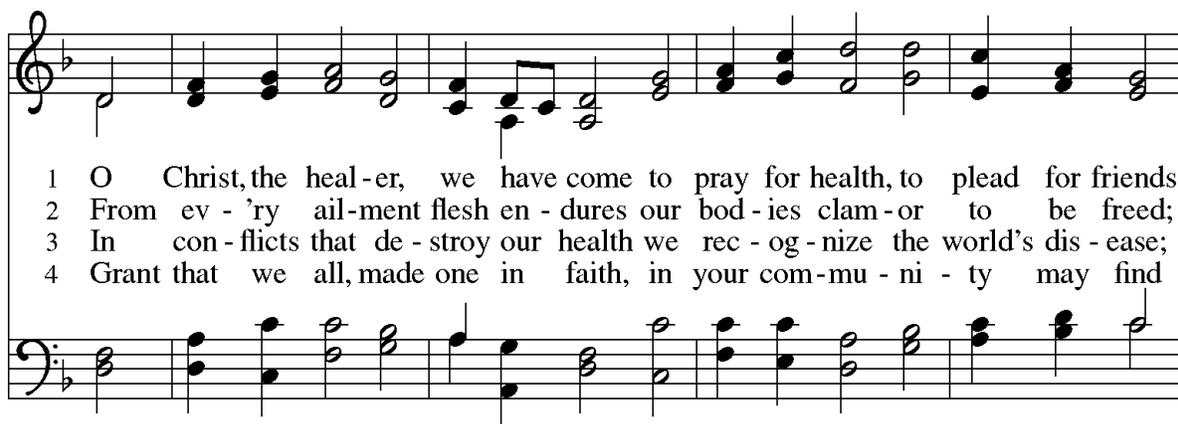
*At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:*

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210207/playlist>

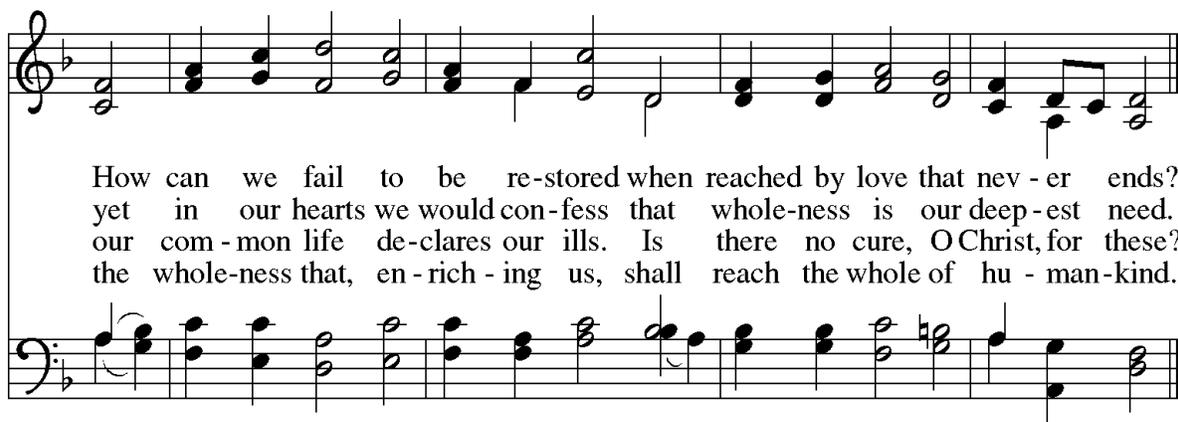
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210207/playlist>

## HYMN OF THE DAY #610

### O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come



1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;  
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;  
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find



How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.  
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*Then pray these intercessions:*

Trusting in God's power to heal, let us offer our prayers for all who are in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "We await your steadfast love."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church's many ministries of healing; for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains; for those serving in prisons, camps, and institutions; and for bishops and pastors facing illness of which we are unaware.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, saving God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for the health of the earth; for its myriad animals and their habitats; and for all created life that has been harmed by human misuse.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, provident God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for the health of people around the globe, especially for the people of Ethiopia and India; for international health organizations; for local and national medical services; and for school officials and teachers facing the pandemic.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, benevolent God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for wholeness in our nation; for the safety of our nation's elected leaders; for an end of domestic violence; for an end to prejudice; and for an end to civic terrorism.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, sovereign God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for a halt to the pandemic; for all who have contracted Covid-19; for health workers; for the prompt distribution of vaccines; and for all who today will die from the virus.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, compassionate God:  
**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray for all who are sick and suffering; for those with chronic pain; for those experiencing despair; for infants born impaired and for the aged in decline; and for all whom we name here: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier and family, Maria Liwski, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Debbie, and Kat.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, consoling God:

**We await your steadfast love.**

We pray finally for ourselves; for steady trust in your power; and for health in our weakness.

*A longer period of silence.*

We pray to you, loving God:

**We await your steadfast love.**

We praise you for the faithful departed and for their lives of service to others; and we pray that despite sickness and death, at our end we join with them to find our wholeness in you.

*A brief silence.*

We pray to you, eternal God:

**We await your steadfast love.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20210207/playlist>

## HYMN #858

### Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

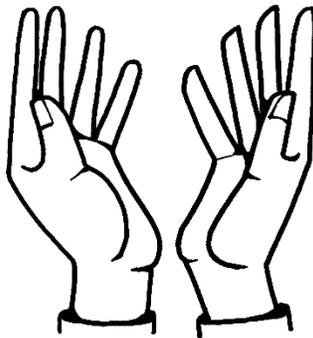
*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy God,  
Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness,  
we hear your Word in the Scriptures,  
proclaiming to us your wisdom  
and inviting us to follow your call.  
For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother,  
who preached your righteousness, healed the sick,  
and revived the brokenhearted.  
For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.  
**We worship you, O God.**

By your Spirit bless all who receive this Word,  
that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance of your Son.  
For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us,  
now and forever. Amen.  
**Amen.**



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let this food to us be blessed.  
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,  
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

**Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** Psalm 102:12-28. **Tuesday** 2 Kings 8:1-6.

**Wednesday** Mark 3:7-12. **Thursday** Psalm 50:1-6. **Friday** 1 Timothy 1:12-20.

**Saturday** Luke 19:41-44. **Transfiguration of Our Lord** (commemoration of Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs) 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

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