

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, February 7, 2021  
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany  
Order of Worship, including Communion and Scripture

***If you would like to participate in Communion, please have your bread and juice (or their substitutes) ready before beginning worship.***

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*Seasonal Theme:*

Jesus grows up and it begins to dawn on some who and what he is.

*Theme for the day:*

Jesus will heal us and give us strength for the day. We can be the channel through which others are healed.

*Call to Worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Is anyone here feeling tired?

People: **Yes! I am weary and weighed down with burdens.**

All: ***Take heart! God gives us strength and energy.***

Pastor: Is anyone here hurt or grieving?

People: **Yes! I am wounded and in pain.**

All: ***Take heart! God heals broken hearts.***

Pastor: Is anyone here short on cash, pinched for resources?

People: **Yes! I am overwhelmed with debt and the effort of making ends meet.**

All: ***Take heart! God's reward is free for the taking.***

Pastor: Is anyone here left out, sinned, outcast?

People: **Yes! I have been pushed to the margins, labeled unworthy of inclusion.**

All: ***Take heart! God is calling your name and waiting to gather you close in love. Amen.***

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read along with me, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

God of Power, open our ears to hear your message. Turn it into praise, to share its profound effect on life, with peace and justice throughout the world. We pray in Jesus's name and way: Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*    **Mark 1:29-39**

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

*Message:*    **BE COMPASSIONATE IN MINISTRY!**

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed, Ecumenical Version (UMH 882)  
(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Sacrament of the Holy Communion*

*In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread  
(or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready.*

*Let us come together to Christ’s table.*

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts, we offer ourselves to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:

*[lifting the bread]* Bread of Heaven,

*[lifting the cup]* Cup of Salvation,

*[lifting bread and cup]* Resurrection and Life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit among us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one in the body, one in the blood, one with Christ, one in mission, one in ministry; in this place, in every place, in this world, and in the world to come.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. [Lord's Prayer]

**Amen.**

*Receiving the Bread and Cup*

*Prayer after Receiving*

O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen.

*Come to Christ and offer your gifts, not as a burden, but as opportunity to give rest and renewal to those who yearn to know God's love. Thank you again for all the offerings and pledges you have sent in by mail.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

***(please read along with me, aloud or silently as you prefer)***

O God of Compassion, we sing to you with thanksgiving, making a melody to you with our praise. Use these gifts to spread your gospel near and far, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction*

Be bold in spreading the good news of Christ. Trust Him. Be authentic in your ministry, compassionately uplifting others. God rules.

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Scripture Readings – February 7, 2021

*first reading* – **MARK 1:29-39**

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

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. 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. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He 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." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*second reading* – **1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-23**

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! 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. 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.

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. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. 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. 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. 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*