

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**Commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Martyr, Renewer of the Church and Society**

**January 17, 2021**

**10:00 a.m.**

**The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor**

**Bill Engel, organ**

**Hanieh Kohan Khaki, Lector**

**Kathryn Kanaan, Worship Assistant**

**Elizabeth Connolly, Paul Engel, Billie Thompson, & Jan Neuhaus, singers**

**Omari Abdul-Alim, violin**

**Brian Jensen, sound, video, & computer**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**□ SOLA GRATIA □**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMEMORATION LITANY**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, + in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace and in the hearing of your holy word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

We remember the conviction of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that “freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.”

**Lord, give courage and determination to those who are oppressed.**

We remember Dr. King’s warning that “a negative peace which is the absence of tension” is less than “a positive peace which is the presence of justice.”

**Lord, help those who work for peace in our world to cry out first for justice.**

We remember Dr. King's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

**Lord, allow us to see nothing in isolation, but know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven.**

We remember Dr. King's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are."

**Lord, we pray that neither this congregation nor any church may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is your call to us.**

We remember Dr. King's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty." **In faith and washed in your grace Lord, we commend ourselves and our work for justice to your goodness, almighty God. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

### Built on a Rock

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are  
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -  
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is

fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are  
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us  
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our

chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the  
 life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their  
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with  
 souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.  
 midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.  
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.  
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887  
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together:

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## □ SOLA SCRIPTURA □

### THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the

temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

## PSALM PRAYER

from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

### SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

### HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

*Refrain - All*

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a  
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a



wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a  
2 When Je - sus was on earth, . . . . . the . .  
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum-bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -  
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -  
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.  
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.  
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

### GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

## □ SOLA FIDE □

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*response: Kathleen Thomerson*

•*please repeat after the cantor, and again after each indicated petition:*

**I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.**

•*all sing at the end of the prayers:*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the  
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the  
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

### THE NICENE CREED

*During the season of Epiphany we continue to share in the collective creed,  
the creed which declares the power of community in Christ  
when each of us declares “we...”*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

[Give Here](#)

**MARCH ON WASHINGTON**, When it was an Offering of Self, not Selfish Greed

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Take some time this week to share God's peace in a Trinitarian way. First, with a member or friend of First Lutheran. Second, connect with a friend, colleague, classmate, or neighbor whom you haven't spoken with in a while; and third, when you are out and about in the world, say these words to a stranger: "peace be with you." Don't be shy, you're wearing a mask anyway. You'll know if they are Lutheran/Episcopalian/Catholic by their response.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

**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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### O God Our Rock, Foundation of All Days

1 O God our rock, foun - da - tion of all days,  
3 When strength is spent, sus - tain this house of clay;  
4 Lift up our hearts that joy - ful we pro - claim

you are our ref - uge, won - drous are your ways.  
course through each hour when hairs are old and gray.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren your re - deem - ing name.

Ground of the world, our pil - lar sure and strong,  
Breath of the world, your pres - ence we im - plore:  
God of the worlds, now pros - per all our days,

we lift our lives to praise with lyre and song.  
breathe on these bones and sav - ing hope re - store.  
that ev - 'ry mo - ment of - fer up your praise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: ELLERS; Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901, arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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## **BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

Go now. Listen for the voice of the Lord  
and follow wherever it leads.

Do not be dominated by anything.

Allow no room within yourselves for deceit,  
but offer yourselves as a temple for the Holy Spirit.

And may God be with you and speak through you;  
May Christ Jesus be one with you and raise you to life;  
And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy.

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **POSTLUDE**

***MLK commemoration litany***

*from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

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***prayer of the day, offering prayer, and dismissal***

*from Sundays and Seasons 2021, Year B*

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***closing blessing***

*by Nathan Nettleton*

*a gift to the wider Church from the South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

*Melbourne, Australia*

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