



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31, 2021  
8:30am

## Welcome to Zumbro Lutheran Church!

Jesus is engaged in ministry in Galilee. Many are receptive to his teaching and healing, but some are not, including the hometown folks at the synagogue in Nazareth. Because the crowds are growing, Jesus calls some disciples to assist in his ministry. Love is at the heart of Jesus' efforts but, as we witnessed in Nazareth, his actions are sometimes misunderstood and cause controversy.

In this week's gospel, controversy is front and center regarding Jesus' actions on the sabbath. Even though Luke portrays Jesus as faithful in keeping the commandments, there are occasionally times and places when commandments and rules might get in the way. This is one of those times. And for those of us who know this story, we are well aware that this is only the beginning of Jesus' conflict with the religious and political leaders of his day.

PRELUDE

SICILIANO

J.S. BACH,

MICHAEL BOSTWICK, CLARINET; KRISTY GIERE, PIANO

ARR. RICHARD STOLTZMAN

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters,  
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,  
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.  
*silence for reflection and self-examination*

L: Holy God,

**C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.**

**Amen.**

L: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN

### HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

**How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**

**"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**

**"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."**

## GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### ARISE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME!

**Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.**

## Prayer of the Day

L: Holy and Loving God,

**C: You share expectations for us through your commandments. Because of these commandments, we are mindful of the need for Sabbath rest. Still, we bump into situations that nudge us to respond to a human need instead of following the letter of the law. Give us discernment as we attempt to find a life-giving way forward. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 6:1-11 NRSV

<sup>1</sup>One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. <sup>2</sup>But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?" <sup>5</sup>Then he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

<sup>6</sup>On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. <sup>7</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. <sup>8</sup>Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" <sup>10</sup>After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. <sup>11</sup>But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## STORYTIME

JANETTE REEVES

## ANTHEM

### I GIVE TO YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT

A VIRTUAL CHOIR ANTHEM BY THE ZUMBRO LUTHERAN CHOIR

MUSIC: PETER NARDONE

WORDS: JOHN 13:34-35

AND LIBER USUALIS

I give to you a new commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you.

*Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsulemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

[Where charity is true, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be glad in him. Let us fear and love the living God. And from a sincere heart let us love one another.]

Amen.

## SERMON

### LOVE SOMETIMES BREAKS THE RULES

PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON

## LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG



1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



I'll tell ev - `ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go;  
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - `ly you saved by your love,



Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

*A brief silence.*

L: Let us pray.

*After each petition the congregation responds:*

**C: Have mercy, O God.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

## BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

HYMN

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

**I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain* **In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father.** *Refrain*

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus.** *Refrain*

SENDING

L: People of Zumbro, what is our mission?

**C: Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace, to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

POSTLUDE ON AN ORIGINAL ANTIPHON  
KRISTY GIERE, ORGAN

CHRISTOPHER UEHLEIN, OSB

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Kathryn Aarseth      Mel Aarseth      Barbara Berg      Sandy Dilley      Karen Jensen  
Mark Nelson      Rick Turner

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**PROCLAIMER**-Pastor Vern Christopherson; **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**-Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner;  
**LECTOR**-Greg Schoenbeck; **STORYTIME**-Janette Reeves; **ORGANIST/PIANIST**-Kristy Giere;  
**SONGLEADERS**-Brenda Wichmann, Janette Reeves; **SINGING**-Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere,  
director; Todd Christiansen, virtual anthem producer; **INSTRUMENTAL**-Michael Boswick, clarinet

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1. Go to [zumbrolutheran.org/give](http://zumbrolutheran.org/give)
2. Mail a check to Zumbro Lutheran Church
3. Text "ZUMBRO" TO 73256 and follow the link
4. Scan QR code at right and follow the prompts.



Our journey of faith leads us to build bridges of understanding and peace to reach out with compassion, and to share the hope of Jesus.

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