4th Sunday after Epiphany

The Season "Epiphany" means "to reveal" or "to make known. During the season of Epiphany Jesus is revealed as the promised Savior of all by his powerful words and actions.

The Sunday Our human inclination is to listen without faith. This can only lead us to the brow of a cliff and throwing Jesus out of our lives. But the Savior of the Nations comes with his gracious words of redemption and membership in his body. The Word of the Lord is proclaimed through the revelation of his Anointed One. In him faith is rooted, love flourishes, and salvation is known from generation to generation. Today we see Jesus is revealed amidst rejection.

Hymn God Has Spoken by His Prophets CW 281 1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, Spo - ken his un -2 God Christ Je - sus, spo - ken Christ, the has bv ev er -3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, Speak-ing to the chang-ing pro - claim - ing Word, Each from age to age last - ing Son. Bright-ness the Fa of ther's glo - ry, hearts of all. In the age - less Word ex - pound - ing the one, the God right-eous Lord. In the world's de _ spair and With the Fa - ther ev - er one, Spo ken by the Word in -His own mes-sage for all. Through the rise and fall us of One firm holds God is tur - moil an _ chor us fast: God God, fore Light from car - nate, from be time was, One na - tions faith is stand - ing fast. God sure a king, his throne God the first e - ter - nal. and God the last. earth Light, to de-scend-ing-He re - veals our God to us. bides. his Word un-chang-ing, God the first God the last. and

Text: George W. Briggs, 1875–1959, alt. © 1953. Renewed 1981 by The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: Rev GLORIAE (87 87 D) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.



M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

- M: Hasten to save me, O God.
- C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.
- M: Give glory to God, our light and our life.
- C: Come, oh, come, let us worship.

Come, Oh, Come Let Us Sing To The Lord The congregation will sing the refrain and verses *Refrain*





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Be Seated



Psalm 78



and established the law in <u>Is</u>rael,

so the next generation would <u>know</u> them,* and they in turn would tell their <u>chil</u>dren.

Then they would put their <u>trust</u> in God* and would not forget his deeds but would keep <u>his</u> commands.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,

as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

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First Lesson

1 Kings 17:7-16

The Word of the Lord is carried by the prophet Elijah to the widow at Zarephath. Though not of the chosen House of Israel, yet salvation came to her house through the prophet. Along with Namaan the Syrian, Jesus cites this account to offer proof that the Word of the Lord will go outside Israel when it rejects the Anointed One.

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it and die."

¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the land."

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah. (NIV)

Gospel

Luke 4:20-32

The gracious words of the Anointed One win admiration but not hearts of faith. When confronted by their own unbelief and the inclusion of Gentiles in spiritual Israel, "Joseph's son" is driven from the synagogue to be thrown from the cliff. Yet the Savior of the nations passes through the angry mob to continue his mission and reveal himself in Capernaum.

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum."

²⁴ "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy^[a] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority. (NIV)

M: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635, abr.; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899-1955, alt.

Tune: SUCH, WER DA WILL (447 447 44 447) Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646, alt.

Romans 10:18-11:6

Sermon

Paul describes Israel's rejection of the Lord. Surely the Word of the Lord was available. The Anointed One was revealed through prophecy in their midst. Yet he was rejected and despised. And so the Word of the Lord, the revelation of the Anointed One has been made to those not of the covenant people. Still, the Lord has reserved a remnant from among Abraham's children, a remnant chosen by grace.

¹⁸ But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did:

"Their voice has gone out into all the earth,

their words to the ends of the world."[Psalm 19:4]

¹⁹ Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says,

"I will make you envious by those who are not a nation;

I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding."[Deuteronomy 32:21]

²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says,

"I was found by those who did not seek me;

I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."[Isaiah 65:1]

²¹ But concerning Israel he says,

"All day long I have held out my hands

to a disobedient and obstinate people."[Isaiah 65:2]

11 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³ "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"^[1 Kings 19:10,14]? ⁴ And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal."^{[11 Kings 19:18] 5} So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. (NIV)

Stand





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Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

M: In the morning, O Lord, I cry to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer of the Day

- M: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

Prayer for Grace

M: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Blessing

- M: The Lord bless and keep you.
- C: Amen.
- M: The Lord's face ever shine upon you.
- C: Amen.
- M: The Lord grant you peach for all your days.
- C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn: Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening CW 283:1-2 1 Speak, O Sav - ior; lis-t'ning, As ser - vant I am а 2 Oh, what bless - ing be near you And to lis - ten to to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or your voice! Let love and fear you; to me ev er Ŋ pre - cious Word, day, То your ho - ly, That each my Let your Word still my choice. be Man - y hard - ened whole life through, I fol - low may and serve Flee sin Lord, in _ ners, ter ror at your . your Word e'er be Let plea - sure you. my Word, sin's But to all who feel bur - den And my heart's most pre cious trea - sure. _ You give peace and words of par - don. Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638–83, abr.; tr. composite. Tune: WERDE MUNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667.

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