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*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, February 4, 2024*

Greeting

Call to Worship:

Pastor: In a world of unbelief, we set aside this time to connect with faith.  
**People: We come carrying worries and fears, losses and dreams;**  
Pastor: Ready that we may open our hearts to God’s grace.  
**People: We come bearing the stresses of our week and conflicting concerns;**  
Pastor: Ready that we may open our minds to God’s word

**People: We come feeling overwhelmed and unsure of ourselves, with too much to manage and too little hope;**

Pastor: Ready that we might open our lives to God’s Spirit.

**People: We come as we are, to be embraced as we are, by God’s eternal love.**

**Worship Music Hallelujah (Your Love is Amazing)**

OPENING PRAYER

Surprising God, we admit that we are a lost and wandering people, distracted by the world around us and easily diverted from how you call us to live. We are quick to anger and slow to forgive; we are quick to judge and slow to accept; we are quick to doubt and slow to understand. Too often we place barriers in the way of seeing you in the world, and hesitate to share you with the world.

We pray for support and compassion, so that we may always, however tentatively, proclaim the joy and hope of your promise to us — that we are forgiven. We gratefully affirm that your love will always welcome us, comfort us and heal us. Be with us now in this time of worship and help us accept you into our lives, as you will always accept us. **AMEN.**

\*OPENING HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty (Verses 1, 3,4) #64

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESON Psalm 122 NIV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY INVITATION:

In Mark 6, we find Jesus rejected by his hometown. His response is to share himself by sending out the twelve. As he gave of himself, we are called to give of ourselves. It might be in the form of time, or talent, or gifts of money. Let us, like Jesus, share of ourselves as we receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Empowering God,

You love touches our lives in many different ways, through the varied talents and diverse interests you have blessed us with. Your love guides our lives in many different ways, along the varied paths we travel and the individual choices we make. With gratitude, we offer the fruit of your love — the gifts of what we have and who we are — for use in your service. Inspire us, exactly where we are today, to see the needs of those around us. Work through us, just as we are today, to heal your broken world. Amen

THE GOSPEL LESSON Mark 6: 1-29 NLT

HYMN OF PREPARATION Lord, Speak to Me (Verses 1-3) #462

SERMON Rejected (What Will You Do with Jesus?) Pastor Lyle

***The Great Thanksgiving***

Invitation to Communion:

The table of the United Methodist Church is an open table. All who repent of their sin and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord are welcome. Come, not because you are strong but because you are weak. Come, not because of any goodness of your own but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment. For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways that lead to glory. Amen.**

Time of Silent Personal Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News! Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That is proof of God’s love for us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Please follow the liturgy at page 15 in the hymnal.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

GIVING THE BREAD

As the bread is passed by the ushers, we will sing together Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast #616 (Verses 1 & 2). Please hold bread until instruction by the pastor. We will all share it together.

GIVING THE CUP

As the cup is passed by the ushers, we will sing together Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast #616 (Verses 3, 4 & 5). Please hold the cup until instruction by the pastor. We will all share it together.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN Lead On, O King Eternal #580

BENEDICTION

Go forward this day: Ready to find God in the world, in small and surprising places. Willing to see God at work, in intriguing and unexpected ways. Eager to serve God in the world, where you are, as you are, and as God calls you to love. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Prayer List:**

Family of Ronald Adams Janet Fisher Moyer - sciatica

Amber – breast cancer Arlene Oner – hip replacement

Margaret Bollinger -pancreatic cancer Nash – sickle cell anemia

Ron Dentzer – cancer People in Israel and Gaza and Ukraine

Lynne Elwell- surgery February 1st Shelly Royer - implant

Donna – cancer treatable Connie Rupp – hospice care at Fairmont

Kris and Dan Frey- house destroyed Dr. Bill Schlorff – stage 3 throat cancer

Justin Grube – improving Sharon - brain cancer

Cindy Haines – skilled care Linda Slafkovski – metastatic cancer

Mary Jenks – biopsy scheduled Dawn Smith – stage 4 cancer

Kellen – reaction to lymphoma treatment Tom Steffy - testing

Faye Miller - immunotherapy for cancer Alex Wenger – treatments for leukemia

**SUNDAY MORNING OFFERING**

**OFFERING AMT NEEDED EACH WEEK       $1,400**

**OFFERING January 28th $1,511**

**AMT OF OFFERING NEEDED TO     $5,600**

**AMT RECEIVED TO DATE         $10,333**

**BUDGET YTD +$4733 Attendance – 35 Folks**

**What’s happening at Wiest:**

The Chosen – video series – 1030 Sunday after church

Bible Study – Tuesdays 1000-1200.

Choir Practice – Thursdays 1200 PM

Girl Scouts – 2nd Thursday of each month

Game Day – Thursdays February 8th and 22nd 130-330 PM

Blessings of Hope – Saturday February 26th 1030-1100

Audio of the Sunday message is posted on our church website ([www.wiestchurch.org](http://www.wiestchurch.org)). Video on Wiest Church Facebook page

Birthdays

7- Tracy Finefrock

9- Jim Moyer

13- Gloria Lintner

14- Tom Steffy

Connie Rupp’s new address and phone number:

Connie Rupp Room phone: 717-354-1603

Fairmont Homes Rehab desk phone: 717-354-1881

Room 128D

333 Wheatridge Dr

Ephrata, PA 17522

Lectionary Readings for next week: Sunday – Mark 6: 17-29

Monday – Mark 6: 30-34 Thursday – Psalm 89: 5-11

Tuesday – Mark 6: 35-44 Friday – Mark 8: 22-26

Wednesday – Mark 6: 45-56 Saturday – Mark 8: 27-38

Sermon Summary

Rejected (What Will You do with Jesus?)

Imagine picking up the newspaper and reading: Help Wanted – Prophet. The add lists all the qualities that are necessary to fill the position. How many of us could meet them? Jesus has returned to his hometown of Nazareth along with his disciples. On the Sabbath, he teaches in the synagogue. While people are amazed by his words, they ask from where did he get his wisdom? He is scoffed because of his occupation as a carpenter and his family. I can hear, “I knew him when he was a child.” He admitted that prophets are honored everywhere but in their home towns.

So he left home and went to preach in the surrounding villages, where he healed many. He sent his disciples out in pairs and told them to take nothing but a walking stick, their sandals and the clothes they wore. Hospitality was an important part of the culture and Jesus was testing the hospitality of those the disciples would encounter. Where the disciples found hospitality, they were able to cast out evil spirits and heal many. Where they did not, they shook the dust off their sandals as they left the towns. God’s power was shown by what one gives, not what one takes.

Herod Antipas appears in the story now. We are told that he has heard about Jesus because everyone is talking about him. Herod thinks Jesus may be John the Baptist raised from the dead. He had made an oath to his stepdaughter after she danced at his birthday party. He promised anything up to half his kingdom to her. She went to her mother Herodias, who told her to ask for the head of John the Baptist who was in prison. He was there because he had angered Herodias, the wife of Herod.

Although he did not want to keep his oath, his pride would not let him step back from it. So John was beheaded.

The story ends with followers of John retrieving his body and burying it in a tomb.

The parallels between the lives and deaths of John the Baptist and Jesus are many. The difference is at the end, when the tomb of Jesus is found to be empty, for he arose.

John and Jesus called their followers to a different way. Sometimes we, like the crowds at Nazareth, discount people who tell us difficult truths and look for reasons to discredit them. Sometimes we, like Herod, tolerate the suffering of innocent people because doing the right thing is inexpedient.

We have the luxury of knowing who Jesus is and that he is for us. Jesus has felt the weight of rejection in his hometown. Like one of the prophets of old, Jesus calls us to renewed faithfulness and empowers us with the courage to enact it. There is a cost to living faithfully in God’s ways, but the promise of God to our ancestors, and the promise of Christ to us, is that we are not alone, and God will see us through. Amen.

Sermon Quiz

1. Jesus travelled home from Capernaum to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was important to the culture of the time.
3. While amazed by his \_\_\_\_\_, the people scoffed at Jesus because of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and family.
4. Jesus was able only to \_\_\_\_\_ a few people because of their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Jesus leaves Nazareth and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the surrounding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Then he sends his disciples out in \_\_\_\_\_, giving them authority to cast out unclean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s reign is shown by all that one \_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_ has heard about Jesus because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was talking about him.
9. Herod made an \_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ causes him to carry it out.
10. John and Jesus were alike in many ways, but at the end the tomb of Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Last Week’s Quiz

1. Jesus has crossed back over the Sea of Galilee to the Jewish side.
2. There he was met by a crowd and Jairus, the local synagogue leader.
3. His daughter is dying, and he begs Jesus to come and lay hands on her.
4. On the way to Jairus’ home, they are interrupted by a bleeding woman.
5. She pushes through the crowd and touches Jesus’ robe, hoping to be healed.
6. Jesus feels healing power leaving him, and asks who touched his robe.
7. She confesses, and Jesus tells her that she is completely healed.
8. Messengers arrive and tell Jairus that his daughter has died.
9. Jesus tells Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just have faith.”
10. Faith in Jesus can lead to the end of many deaths for those who only believe.