



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance (arr. Mark Albrecht)
Scott Vicroy, saxophone

WELCOME

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In honesty before God and one another, we acknowledge our sin and recall the cleansing and renewing power of God's promises in baptism. The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst**

about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table (ELW 522)

- 1** As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2** Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.
- 3** Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

GREETING

P The grace of the 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

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory. *Refrain***

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
Receive our prayer. *Refrain***

**For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God the Father. *Amen Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

R ¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

C ²For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

R ³Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

C ⁴Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

R ⁵Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

C ⁶The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

R ⁷Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

C ⁸Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

R ⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

C ¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

R ¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

C ³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

R ⁴⁰You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

KIDS' MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Those who follow me, will not walk in darkness,

Those who follow me will have the light of life.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

Alleluia, Alleluia, I am the light of the world.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Andrew Kitzing

HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sin As We Forgive (ELW 605)

- 1 **"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.**
- 2 **How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?**
- 3 **In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you!**

4 **Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.**

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(After each petition, respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**")*

In our prayers with recent concerns: Sophia Johnson-Alvarez, Doris Bushard, Fred Ohles, Michael Dalton and Verla Youngquist. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Mike Snyder, Elaine Kruse, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Gloria Van Ackeren, and Tracy Troutman. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Donna Nelson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Ralph Hayden, Rod Price and Margrett Wehland.

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C **Amen.**

PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

MUSIC OFFERING

Where He Leadeth Me (arr. Brant Adams)

Scott Vicroy, saxophone

P To God be the glory.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
Our Lord and Savior, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
All victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed... (*here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

**C 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.

INVITATION

P We are here because Jesus has called us... These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.**

COMMUNION MUSIC

Let Us Love Each Other (David von Kampen)

Dawn Brock, vocal

COMMUNION HYMNS

Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)

**1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;**

brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.

3 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.

5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Jesus, Jesus Fill Us with Your Love (ELW 708)

Refrain

Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain*

3 **These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

4 **Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain***

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and
healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion and send you
in love.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing (ELW 537)

1 **On our way rejoicing
Gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
Vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
Who, if we be faithful,
Can our hope destroy?**

Refrain

**On our way rejoicing;
As we forward move,
Hearken to our praises,**

O blest God of love!

**2 Unto God the Father
Joyful songs we sing;
Unto God the Savior
Thankful hearts we bring;
Unto God the Spirit
Bow we and adore,
On our way rejoicing
Now and evermore. Refrain**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G (John Stanley)

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger

Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing

Live Streaming: Jim Overcash

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