

*Introduction to the day:* Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the diverse people of God.*

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

*The congregation invited to stand as they are able and face the baptismal font.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who creates us,  
redeems us,  
and calls us by name.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory  
when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word  
when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality  
to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done  
and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe  
in the glory of your Son born among us,  
and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✚ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,  
adopted into the household of Christ,  
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

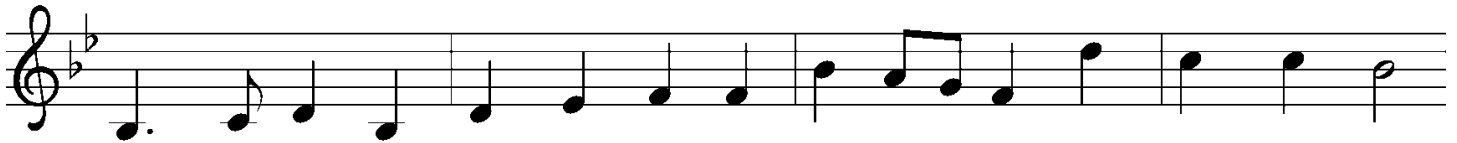
**Amen.**

*Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.*

## GATHERING SONG *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (ELW 533)



- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
- 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
- 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
- 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
- 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.  
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE

(ELW p. 138)

*Music and Lyrics on next page*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

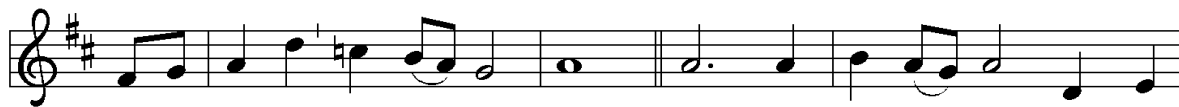


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*continues on next page*

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 17:5-10

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

*A reading from Jeremiah.*

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals

and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.  
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.  
It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 1 (Pr. Allen Dunn)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not  
wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (Pr. Allen Dunn)

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those  
who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

*A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no  
resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised;  
<sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in

vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE**

(Jeri Wartena)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel*

### **GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26**

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** *Let Justice Flow like Streams* (ELW 717)



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

*Please be seated*



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Pr. Allen Dunn)

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation.

Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box*

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.*

*Thank you so much for your continued support.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his preaching and healing,

his dying and rising, and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God's table.  
There is a place for you and enough for all.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.  
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.*

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## BLESSING

God,  
who leads you in pathways of righteousness,  
who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,  
✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723)

*Music and Lyrics on next page*



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*Please be seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God and we will.**