

*Introduction to the day:* Mercy, Mercy, Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

## **GATHERING**

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

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### **OPENING SONG/PRELUDE**

*Come As You Are*

©Ben Glover, Dave Crowder, Matt Maher

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

## **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 the Eyes of My Heart*

©Paul Baloche

♩ = 112 CHORUS

E<sup>5</sup> B/D#

O - pen the eyes \_ of my heart, \_ Lord, \_ o - pen the eyes \_ of my heart; \_ I want to

5 A<sup>2</sup>/C# A<sup>2</sup> E<sup>sus</sup> E 1, 3. 2, 4. VERSE

see You, \_ I want to see You. \_ To see You high and lift - ed up, .

11 C#m A<sup>2</sup> B<sup>sus</sup> B C#m

\_ shin - ing in the light of Your glo - ry. \_ Pour out Your pow'r and love; \_ As we sing

16 F#m<sup>11</sup> B<sup>sus</sup> 1. 2. BRIDGE

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. \_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_

22 B/D# A<sup>2</sup>/C# A<sup>2</sup>

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; \_ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, \_ I want to

26 1. 2.

E<sup>sus</sup> E E<sup>sus</sup> E repeat as desired E<sup>sus</sup> E

see You. \_ see You. \_

## 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

*Kyrie*

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Music & Lyrics on next page

Leader

In peace, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

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

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer- cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,  
for the health of God's church,  
and for all unity, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For this holy house,  
and we who offer praise, let us pray  
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord\_ have mer cy,  
Christ have mer- cy,  
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,  
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer- cy,  
Christ have mer - cy,  
A - - - - - men

**HYMN OF PRAISE**     *This Is the Feast*

Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Music & Lyrics on next page

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Wor-thy is the  
 Lamb who was slain  
 His blood to set us free  
 Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord  
 Serve the Lord for e-ver.  
 Po-wer, rich-es,  
 wis-dom, strength  
 Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry

All be-long to God on high.  
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
 This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.



This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
 Sing with all God's  
 ho-ly peo-ple  
 Join the hy-mn of  
 all cre-a-tion  
 Bless-ing, hon-or,  
 glo-ry, mi-ght  
 Be to God and the  
 Lamb for-ev-er  
 A-men! A-men!

This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
 Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
 For the Lamb who once was slain  
 Has be-gun his reign forev-er.  
 A - - - - - men!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

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

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**FIRST READING:** Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (Linda Dunn)

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

*A reading from Genesis.*

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.’” <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

*Word of God, word of life.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (Linda Dunn)

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light  
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

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

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

<sup>39</sup>**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;  
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>You, 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 (Linda Dunn)

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

*A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>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. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **KIDS' MESSAGE**

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

## **GOSPEL:** Luke 6:27-38 (Pastor Carolyn Brodt)

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If 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. <sup>35</sup>But 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. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** (Pastor Carolyn Brodt)

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Blest Are They*

(ELW 728)

Music & Lyrics on next page

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they . . . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they . . . . . who seek peace; . . they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



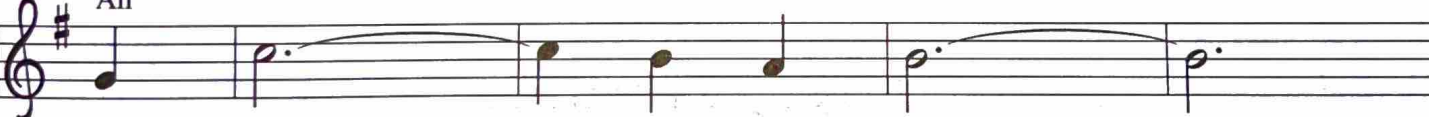
king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



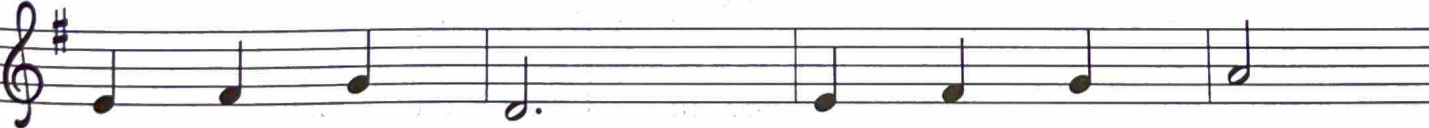
full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they . . . . . shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

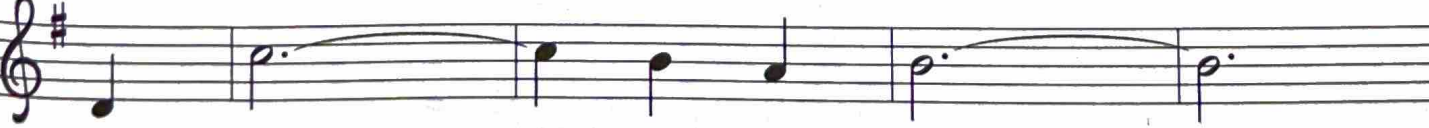
All



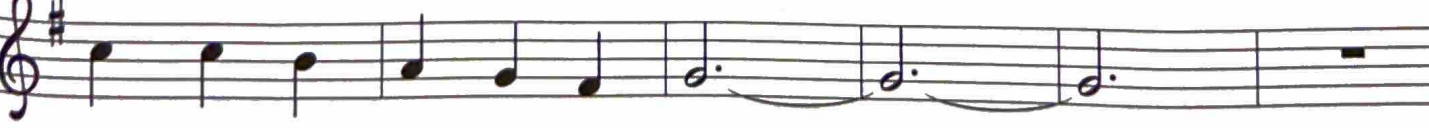
Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!



## 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 (Linda 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.

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. 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.*

*If you are worshipping with us onsite, and wish to give an offering,  
please use the basket on the back table.  
You may also give online  
using the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin.*

## 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 our hearts.

**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

### *Get Together*

CCLI Song # 5751617 Chester Powers © 1963 Irving Music (Admin. by Capitol

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*Verse 1*

Love is but a song we sing  
Fear's the way we die  
You can make the mountains ring  
Or make the Angels cry  
Know the dove is on the wing  
You need not know why

*Chorus:* Come on people now smile on each other  
Everybody get together  
Try to love one another right now

*Verse 2*

Some will come and some will go  
And we shall surely pass.  
When the One who left us here  
Returns for us at last  
We are but a moment's sunlight  
Fading in the grass *Chorus:*

*Verse 3*

If you hear the song we sing  
You must understand  
You hold the key to love and fear  
All in your trembling hand  
Just one key unlocks them both  
It's there at your command *Chorus:*

*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.**