

Worship for the Seventh Sunday After Epiphany – February 20, 2022

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERVICE

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We begin the service by acknowledging that we are sinners and that God forgives us—we are practicing how to love one another—saying ouch and sorry and I forgive you.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dear Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves. Reveal to us your mercy, bless us with right relationship with you and with our neighbors, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen.

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

Merciful Savior,

Like Peter we could fall down before you and say, "get away from me, Lord, for I am a sinner." For we are both captured by and contribute to the hollow brokenness of the world.

Please call us by name, claim us, forgive us, make us people who heal and help and follow after you, in Jesus name. Amen.

God's love overflows and God's mercy is relentless. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of your Sin, in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN – LBW#470 “Praise and Thanks and Adoration”
Verses 1 & 2



1 Praise and thanks and ad - o - ra - tion, Son of God, to you we give,
2 Hold me ev - er in your keep-ing, com-fort me in pain and strife;



for you chose to serve cre - a - tion, died that Ad-am's heirs might live.
through my laugh-ter and my weep-ing, lift me to a no - bler life.



Dear Lord Je - sus, guide my way; faith - ful let me day by day
Draw my fer - vent love to you; con-stant hope and faith re - new



fol-low where your steps are lead - ing, find ad - ven-ture, joys ex-ceed-ing!
in your birth, your life and pas - sion, in your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

GREETING

We gather together in worship, because we don't do this alone, but as a community formed around Jesus Christ. Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there.

Jesus who was revealed in a manger, at a river, and during a wedding feast. We gather expecting Jesus to keep showing up, in food, water, and community.

May it be so.

KYRIE

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WORD

We weekly hear the story of God in scriptures, sermons, and creeds because there are so many stories told in this world and there is a real danger that we will forget our own.

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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.

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. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

God's Word, revealed to us.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

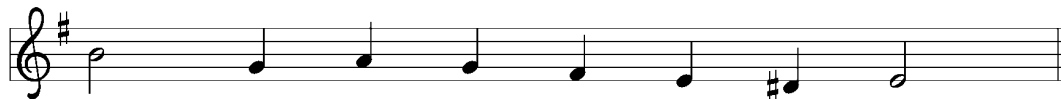
HYMN OF THE DAY LBW#230 “Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”
Verses 1 & 3



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

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 (especially). 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 (especially). 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.

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.

OFFERING

We give thanks, because it helps us recognize that all good things come from God. We practice being thankful.

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Loving Savior"

-Wagner

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Let us pray,

Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

When we receive Holy Communion, we consume what we are, the Body of Christ.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Yes! We praise you for the love, fidelity, and mercy that you continually show to us.

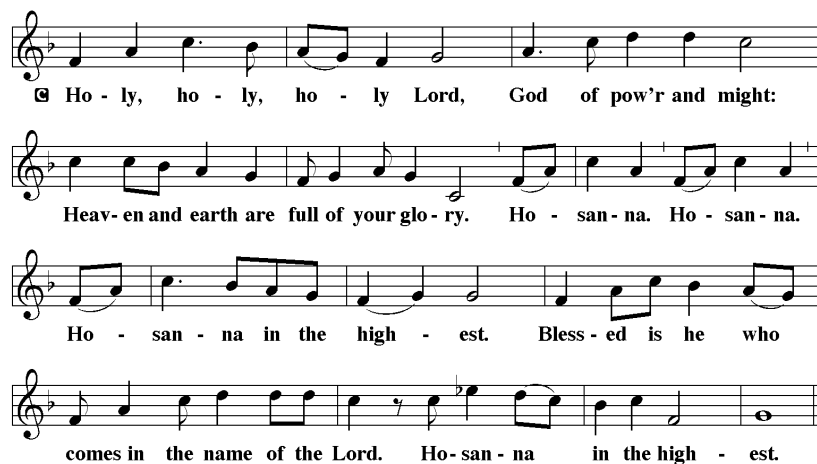
Your presence could shake the heavens and the earth, but instead we experience you as a resting place and refuge. Thank you.

You were faithful to Moses in his wanderings and Miriam through her song. You showed your mercy to the widow of Zarephath through your prophet Elijah.

Thank you.

Your mercy shined on the Magi and reflected out into all the world. Your son Jesus brought joy to the feast and blessings to the least, last and lost. The grave could not hold him and his Spirit pushes us to live out his good news. Thank you.

We thank you and join the song of your Church in every age, and the heavenly angels as well:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

On the night in which he was handed over,
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 in the remembrance of me.

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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 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.

Let us lift up these common elements of bread and wine, as we ask your Holy Spirit's blessing that they might be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Body of Christ, given for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

May Christ's body and blood strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

BENEDICTUS



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Praise and thanks to you almighty God, for you have revealed yourself to us in bread and cup. Be generous to us, please, that we might be faithful to you and loving to our neighbor, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

SENDING

We are sent out to be salt and light, revealing God's love to a world that needs it.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW#549 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"
Verses 1 & 4



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.