

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Planted by the Grace of God  
February 15 & 16, 2025

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### AS WE GATHER

Blessing abound in today's readings! Jeremiah laments the one who "trusts in man," but sees the one who "trusts in the Lord," to be like a tree planted with abundant water that "does not cease to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7, 8). Note that we are "planted,"—a passive verb, grace! Luke records another time Jesus preached using beatitudes. He concluded that we, his hearers, should rejoice and leap for joy, for our reward is great in heaven. Such grace! No wonder that Paul, in the Epistle, warns against those who doubt Christ's resurrection. Our Lord is only "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Today our worship is full of rejoicing in the grace of God. It also gives us strength to produce fruit every day.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

### WELCOME

[Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world  
but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you  
who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead  
and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1: 20-21

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN #912 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.  
On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore  
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

(Rise) Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim In joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:

**People: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**

Pastor: In fact Christ has been raised from the dead,

**People: the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

Pastor: Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

**People: for behold, your reward is great in heaven.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Relying on the grace of God and anticipating the joys of heaven He has prepared for Jesus' sake, let us confess our sins to our gracious God.  
Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that, although You have blessed us like trees planted by streams of water, we have failed to bear fruit for You and have feared when life has been difficult. Forgive us.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ,

**People:** we confess that we have not relied on your resurrection as proof of the grace of God. We have not always lived in the hope of our own resurrection. Forgive us.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit,

**People:** we confess that we have failed to keep the faith you have given us. It is not always active in the face of the difficulties of life and opposition from other people. Forgive us and renew a strong faith within us.

Pastor: By the grace of God, you are like trees planted by streams of water! Grace is abundant daily in God's Word and by His promises. For the sake of our living Lord, rejoice and be glad! I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen. Thanks be to God!

#### HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB p. 155

**Refrain:** This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

#### SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin

**People:** may be mercifully delivered by your goodness to the glory of your name;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

(Be seated)

#### WORD

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 17:5–8* (The one who trusts in the Lord is firmly planted.) <sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 15:1–20* (Stand firm in what we believe.)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about 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, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And 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 fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**5:00 4K-5K** *"I Am So Glad that Jesus Loves Me"*

**10:30 ANTHEM** *"Prayer of St. Patrick"*

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 6:17–26* (Jesus preaches both blessings and curses.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup> who came 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 the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. <sup>20</sup> And he lifted up his eyes on 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 shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. <sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers 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 shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup> "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Be seated)

## CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**"There is a Name I Love to Hear"** AGPS#236

There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing it s worth.  
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

**Refrain: Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus!**  
**Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.**

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free.

It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. Refrain

## SERMON HYMN #533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,  
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;  
God-head, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!  
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.  
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!  
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.  
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.  
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!  
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,  
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.  
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!  
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!  
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,  
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;  
Welcome Him now in this fast fleeting hour!  
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!  
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

## SERMON

(Rise)

## OFFERTORY

LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

## CATECHISM *The Second Article*

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People: I believe that Jesus Christ,**

Pastor: true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary,

**People: is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;**

Pastor: not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

**People: that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

Pastor: just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

**People: This is most certainly true.**

(Be seated)

**OFFERING** As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, your kingdom has been made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ. Gather together a great multitude from every Gentile nation and from Judea's remnant, that many may know Wisdom of Christ come in our flesh. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant, O Lord, that your people may always hold fast to the Word that has been preached to them and not believe it in vain. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, you bestow favor and honor and withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. Bless parents and those who teach children your ways, that generations to come would love your promises, walk in your truth and dwell in your house. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O Lord, preserve us from the ways of the wicked, and prosper us in your paths. We commend to you all who bear office in our land and ask you to make them a blessing to those they serve. Grant to us every joy in the calling you have given to us, that we would render service to you in our works of love toward our neighbor. Remember those in need of honest labor and daily bread, and give them gainful employment according to your good and gracious will. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord of the Church, you call your servants to serve you in the name of Jesus Christ when and where you will. Bless Pastor Josh with wisdom and guidance as he prayerfully seeks your will for his ministry in Christ as he ponders the ongoing call to St. Paul's and the more recent call to Immanuel. Grant him clarity to make a decision only in accordance with your will. Lord, in your mercy,

## SACRAMENT

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Merciful God, hear our prayer for those who are troubled by any unclean spirit, memory or thought; for the sick; and for all who need your healing especially Liz, Jerry, June, Wendy, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Carole, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah. Send forth your power in the name of Christ Jesus, that they would hear your Word and be cured. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Bless all who trust in you and come to eat the holy body and precious blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** O Lord, your Son is risen from the dead and has promised that He is the firstfruits from among those who sleep. Preserve us in Christ Jesus with hope beyond this life. Comfort those who mourn especially the family of Inez Herzog as she has passed away. Remind them of the reason Jesus came to this earth, to save us and bring us everlasting life with you. Give them the certainty of Christ's resurrection, and grant us to live in confident expectation. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord God, heavenly Father, plant us as trees by the stream of Christ, our Savior. Root us securely in His Word and wisdom. Do not let us turn from you, nor put our trust in man and this flesh, which fail. Preserve us from all anxiety, and take our fears away through right fear of you. Cause us, by your Holy Spirit, to bear much fruit and, when affliction and persecution come, to stand firm and rejoice at the great reward that is laid up for those who trust in you; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us, revealing your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your holy name, evermore praising you and saying:

## SANCTUS

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## 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 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.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## PAX DOMINI

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

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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.

(Be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### HYMN #629

#### “What Is This Bread”

What is this bread? Christ’s body risen from the dead:

This bread we break, This life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see - the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see - the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die Under the rod?

My God, my God, Why have You not forsaken me?

O taste and see - the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,

In mouth and soul He makes us whole - Christ, truly present in this meal.

O taste and see - the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!

I do believe That I receive His very body and His blood.

O taste and see - the Lord is good.

### HYMN #621

#### “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand

Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,

Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,

He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

### HYMN #571

#### “God Loved the World so That He Gave”

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven’s heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus’ blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

## COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have  
refreshed us through this salutary gift,

**People: and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us  
through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one  
another;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Blessed are you! Rejoice, leap for joy, for your reward is great in heaven. Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **CLOSING HYMN #922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”**

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.

In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace.

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Pastor Harold Bender

Elisabeth Matusewic, Katie Scepaniski, Jim Laux

Deaconess Carole King

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