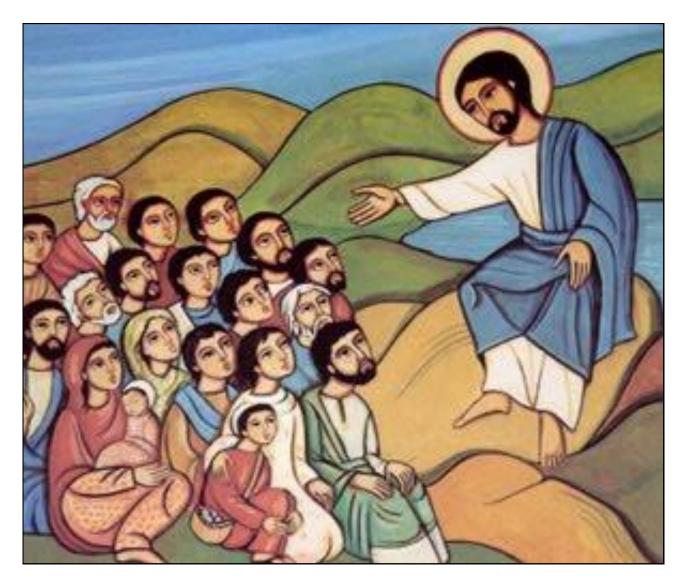


Sunday, February 16, 2025 10:00 a.m.

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" 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.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements





Confession & Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

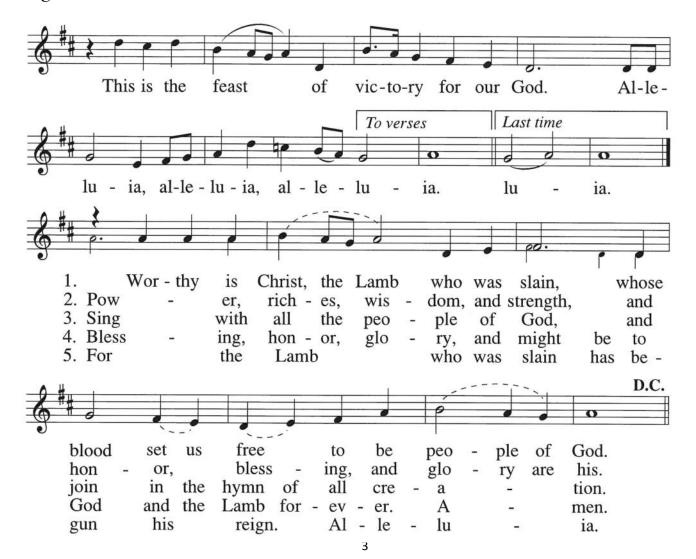
All: Amen.

- Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
- All: 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.
- Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

Song of Praise

This is the Feast



The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: 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.



Lector Blessing

Pastor: Let us pray,...Gracious God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Holy Spirit upon Pam Spencer as she proclaims the word, so that all who receive it will no longer dwell in the shadows, but will have the light of life. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Lector: 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 the first book of the prophet Jeremiah.

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. 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.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. 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.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

Lector: 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!

All: Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

Lector: 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.

All: It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Lector: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

All: For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.



The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Lector: 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 Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 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. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

- Lector: The Word of the Lord.
- All: Thanks be to God.



The Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17-26

Pastor: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All:: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor: 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. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,

for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now,

for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,

for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

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.

"But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

"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.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



Children's Sermon & Sermon

Pastor Joachim Wilck



The Apostles' Creed

All: 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 into hell. 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 of Intercession

Pastor: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (*Silence is observed.*) Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

- Pastor: Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,
- All: hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen.

Offering Anthem

"Christ Hath a Garden" by Gerald Near

Christ, hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground, chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand; By Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heav'n, and bear their sweetest perfume through the aid: Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, Till the beloved Master come:

That he may come, and linger yet among the trees that he hath set; that he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

Offertory

"Give Thanks"



Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us prayer,...Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

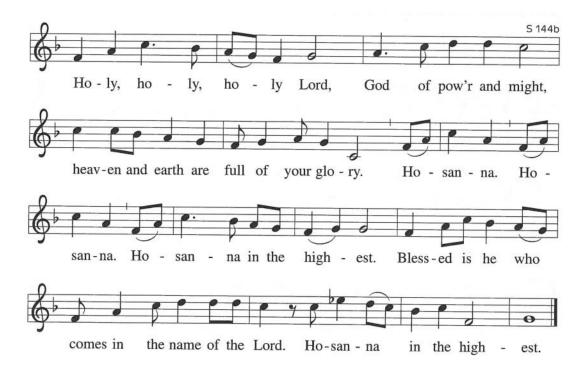
The Great Thanksgiving

- Pastor: The Lord be with you.
- All: And also with you.
- Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
- All: We lift them to the Lord.
- Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Words of Institution

Pastor: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 fir 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



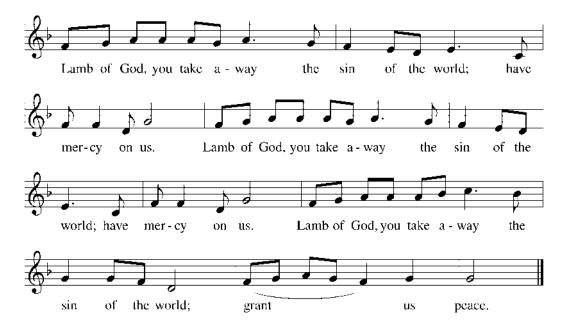
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.



Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

John 1:29



Communion Hymn

"Blest are They"





Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

All: Amen.



Post Communion Canticle

"Go Now In Peace"

Post Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray,...God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the rise life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing

- Pastor: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, | in accordance with Christ Jesus. All: Amen.
- Pastor: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. All: Amen.
- Pastor: The God of all grace † bless you now and forever. All: Amen.

Closing Hymn



Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, Live in hope.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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