

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

WELCOME

Worship leader, please introduce yourself and welcome people online and in person.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion towards all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

AGM Luncheon today after service – Meeting at noon

Thursday, Feb 27 at 1:30 pm – Fraud Prevention Presentation

Congregational Call Meeting next Sunday. Following coffee fellowship downstairs, everyone is invited to move back up to the sanctuary. We'll be asking everyone to sign in so that we have an accurate count of voting members.

Our weekly Lent Bible Study begins Monday, March 3rd at 9:30 am in the upper fireside room.

Our pancake supper is on Tuesday, March 4, at 5 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the place of welcome for opportunities to help out if you can. Everyone is welcome, bring friends and family.

Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 5 at 2 pm with Pastor Erin.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this Season of Epiphany we have seen God revealed in a rumbling voice of over the waters of baptism, in the dove of a Holy Spirit and of course in Jesus. We have seen the kingdom of God revealed in light, in miracles of healing and feeding and celebration and gifts of new wine. And Jesus has taught us too—God's kingdom has met us in word and community and tradition and in God's upside-down ways of blessing the whole of the world—even and especially those we wouldn't normally bless. And today, as the Season of Epiphany draws to a close, the rubber hits the road.

God's kingdom takes root in us. The kingdom, Jesus tells us, is revealed in the way we treat one another. God's kingdom is revealed in communities of love and respect. Communities that practice forgiveness and grace. Maybe this is where the real miracles begin...

We take a moment to open our hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING LITANY

Lord Jesus, we are your church.

We are good-intentioned and fallible; we are hopeful and gullible; we are filled with activity and slothful; we are hurtful and hurting; we are grace-filled and unforgiving.

And yet you are here. We pray for your love.

Lord Jesus, we are your church.

We are witnesses and deniers; we draw lines and choose sides; we agree and agree to disagree; we are the ones who seek and the ones who turn away.

And yet you seek us. Still, you are here. We pray for your love.

Lord Jesus, we are your church.

We love our neighbour, and destroy our families; we walk in broad daylight and in the shadows of night; we long for your kingdom and build castles of our own.

And still, we gather in your name. And forever you are here among us. We pray for your love.

Lord Jesus, we are your church.

Riddled with controversy. Filled with grace. We gather in your name. And you are here. AMEN.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

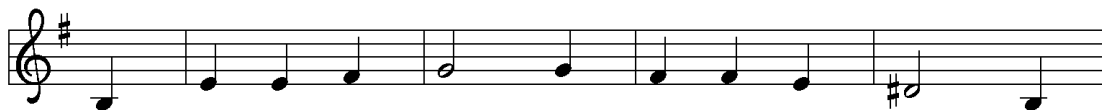
Blessed be the God of the stable and of the hillside, the God of the riverbank, the banquet hall, and the church; who comes to us in unexpected places and times filling the world with joy and life.

Merciful God,

We confess our lack of love for you, our deficit of generosity to others. We judge ourselves better and more deserving, taking what does not belong to us. Like Joseph and his brothers, we toy with the lives of others, acting out our grudges against them. We fail to see the abundance of your love, and begrudge your generosity, holding close what you give for all and to all. Forgive us, strengthen us, and empower us for the work you call us to. In your call to love one another; reveal to us once more your kingdom of grace and life for all us through Jesus your Son.

People of God we hear this good news! God's kingdom of mercy and grace has been revealed in Jesus, God's Son. Our sins are forgiven. We are set free to live together in community and love. This is the Good News of the Gospel! This is the Good News of Christ for us all! **Thanks be to God! Amen!**

GATHERING SONG "The Peace of the Lord" ELW 646 (v. 1-3)



1 *La paz del Se - ñor, la paz del Se - ñor, la*
 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the
 3 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord, the



paz del Re - su - ci - ta - do: la paz del Se -
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the
 peace of the ris - en Lord Je - sus: the peace of the



ñor a ti ya mí, a to - dos al - can - za -
 Lord is for you and for me, and al - so for all of God's
 Lord is a - mong us right now, so o - pen your - selves to re -
 Lord kept with - in can - not live, so o - pen your - selves now to



rá; la paz del Se - ñor a ti ya
 chil - dren. The peace of the Lord is for you and for
 ceive it. The peace of the Lord is a - mong us right
 share it. The peace of the Lord kept with - in can - not



mí, a to - dos al - can - za - rá.
 me, and al - so for all of God's chil - dren.
 now, so o - pen your - selves to re - ceive it.
 live, so o - pen your - selves now to share it.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. Gracious God of love, beyond what we can ever imagine or number, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. By the power of your Holy Spirit implant in us a culture of forgiveness and love, that together with all people we might come to fullness of life and joy in you; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING 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.

This is what God is saying to us today
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE "Alleluia" ELW Setting 8, p. 188 - piano, bass, guitar



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

[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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "To Be Your Presence" ELW 546 (v1-2)

1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy
poor and shel - ter home - less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,

ev - er near,
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith together:

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation, saying, God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A brief silence.

God of love, you have built your church on the call to love and relationship through the reconciling life of Jesus your Son. Work through your church and your people to build that all might know the fullness of your kingdom come. We give thanks today for all those whom you have called to diakonia, to a life of Word and service. Let your hand of blessing rest on all the rostered deacons who serve in our Synod and in the greater church. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, all that you create, you create out of love, calling all creation into life in you. Call us again into right relationship with all that you've created, to respect and treasure what you have made as blessing and gift rather than commodity and possession. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, the purpose of your law is for love, for justice and peace among nations and peoples. We mourn the daily news of the war, hatred, and violence. We acknowledge day to day injustices often unseen: the struggles of the poor; discrimination against those we see as different. Lead us in the paths of your justice, that we would delight in living with honour and love for neighbour. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, your ways are goodness and life. Free us from those things that create fear and dread, loneliness and heartache, disgrace, grief, or pain. We pray for your healing life among us especially Myrtle, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Margaret, Karen, Dave, Tiffany, Blair, Corrie, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Tim, Shirley, Nicola, Reinhold and Isabel, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Carter, Doreen, Margaret and Clayton, Alan, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Jody, Cliff, Dianne and Paul, and those we name silently now. . . [silence]. Raise us up to be instruments of comfort, care, and compassion to all those who suffer. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, you gather us in community around your Word, your font and your table. As you have blessed us with loving relationships, so may we, also, impact our community with the signs of love and forgiveness, gifts to be shared with and for the people you place in our paths and lives. By your Spirit continue to raise us as sons and daughters, as brothers and sisters, as messengers of your love and forgiveness to our world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, we have so much to be thankful for. We give you thanks for every person who has shown us your grace and love. We continue to pray for, and give you thanks for the person you are calling to be our pastor. We give thanks for those in this faith family especially Duncan and Marla McGeorge and Doug and Irene McIntyre and the work of those who take care of our property. We give thanks that we can meet today and we ask that in our annual meeting our words and discussion may be pleasing to you. May the decisions we make be made out of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers, loving God, and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

We set our table for the communion meal.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

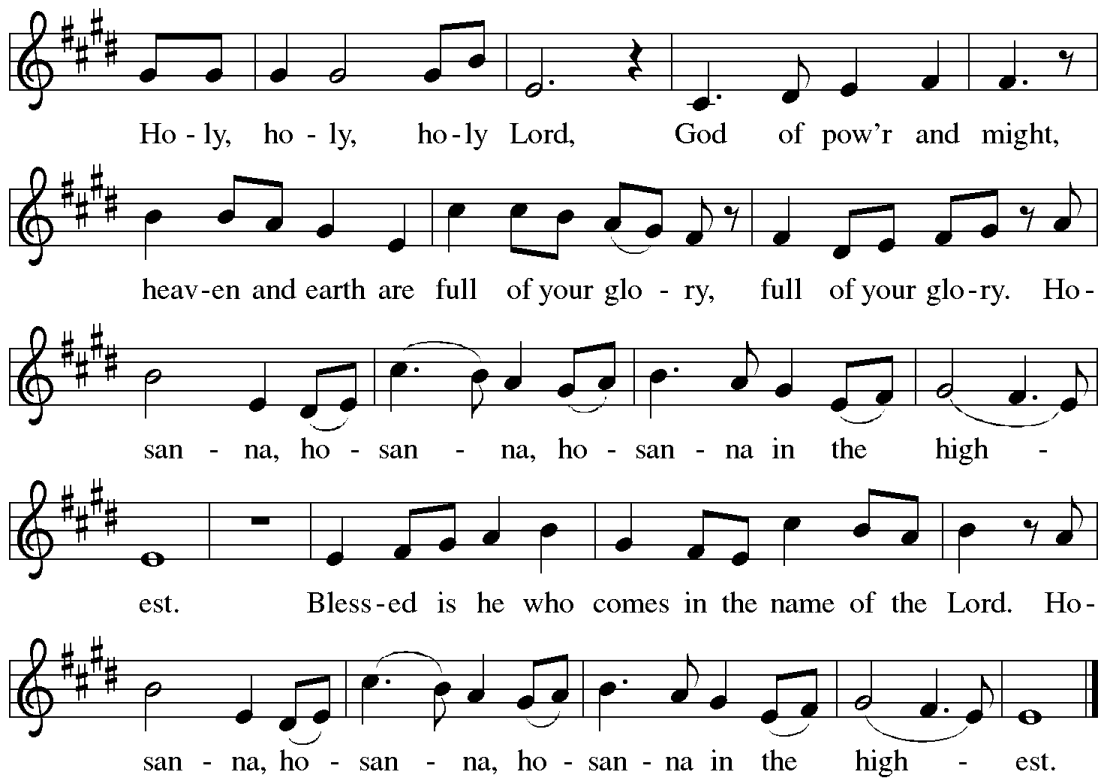
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our duty and delight that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, in joy with the glory of all creation, with the Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy Holy" –ELW Setting 8, page 190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, in the beginning you are Father, Son and Holy Spirit, brooding over the waters of creation; opening wide the space for life and community and love. And when all was chaos and darkness you began to establish the boundaries of creation; to shape the relationship between land and sea and sky, between creature and the creaturely, between Creator and all things created good. And you said this is the shape and the boundary of my life and love for you.

And when there were times of chaos and darkness once more, when your people cried out in slavery, you promised there would be a new creation and new lands of promise where relationships of love would be restored. And you led your people from slavery into freedom. And you began to establish the boundaries; to shape relationship between creation and the creaturely and the Creator who created all things good. And you commanded, "Love God; love one another;" and once again you opened wide the space for life and community and love.

In every age and time, in darkness and in light you continue to shape and community, relationship and love. And you open the space for life and new creation in Jesus your Son; who in boundless and unboundaried love reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross opened his arms for all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this meal. Send us by your command to live in loving relationship with you and one another and all creation; through Jesus Christ your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours now and forever. Amen.

United in Christ, we pray together . . .

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread is broken.
New wine is poured.
God's outpouring of grace is for all.
Come and dine!

*Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you*

COMMUNION VIDEO FOR EPIPHANY

COMMUNION SONGS

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" ELW 674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of hope and healing for the sake
of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, bless those who go forth to share this sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. May these gifts of bread and wine be signs of our love for them. We pray that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

May you live in the wide-open space of God's forgiveness and love. May your lives be nurtured deep within relationships and communities of grace. May you know the glory of Christ revealed in the faces of stranger and friend. And may God the of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "To Be Your Presence" (v 3,4) ELW 546

To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,
alleluia!

We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!

SENDING

Go in peace. Love one another. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God. We will!

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Song Video

1. **“Come Now, O Prince of Prince”** Recorded by St Mark’s Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. Text and music © Geonyong Lee. Reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-712444.

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