



February 16, 2025

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“How Great Thou Art”

- ♪ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;
~Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
- ♪ When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ~Then...
- ♪ But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; ~Then...
- ♪ When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” ~Then....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 801 -Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg 1859-1940, tr. Stuart W. K. Hine 1899-1989;
Tune: Swedish, arr. Stuart W. K. Hine; ©1981 Manna Music; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

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

**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.**

1 Cor. 15:3-4

In fact Christ has been raised from the dead,

The firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor. 15:20

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy,

For behold, your reward is great in heaven.

Luke 6:23

Confession and Absolution

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. *A Time of Silence*

Heavenly Father,

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.

Lord Jesus Christ,

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.

O Holy Spirit,

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.

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.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

♪ Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning

And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,

Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.

Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 790 - Text: Joachim Neander 1650-80; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;

Tune: *Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang Buchs, Stalsund 1665; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵Thus says the Lord:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength,

whose heart turns away from the Lord.

⁶He 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.

⁷“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

⁸He 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵We 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. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”

♪ Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light!

Splendor the Lamb, Heaven forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

~Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

♪ Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. ~Jesus is...

♪ Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me. ~Jesus is...

♪ Weeping be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.

Cherubim sing: “O grave, be open!” Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. ~Jesus is...

♪ City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life, Saints and arch-angels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! ~Jesus is....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 474 -Text: Herbert F. Brokering b. 1926; ©1995 Augsburg Fortress
Tune: David N. Johnson 1922-1987, setting: Henry V. Gerike b. 1948; ©1968 Augsburg Publishing House
Setting-©2006 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Holy Gospel Please Stand

Luke 6:17–26

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷And 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, ¹⁸who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²²“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! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children’s Message Please Be Seated

The Hymn

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”

♪ Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.

♪ Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.

♪ Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.

♪ Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 704 -Text: Johann Friedrich Ruopp 1672-1708; tr. August Crull 1845-1923.
Tune: As hymnodus sacer, Leipzig, 1625; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

Proclamation of the Word

“A Thriving Tree or a Shriveling Shrub?”

Jeremiah 17:5–8

Offering and Musical Offering

Admonition to Communicants Please Stand

Lord's Prayer

Sanctus Hymn *Music: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name" Hymn 917* "Isaiah, Mighty Seer"

- ♪ Isaiah, mighty seer in days of old, The Lord of all in spirit did behold
High on a lofty throne, in splendor bright,
With robes that filled the temple courts with light.
- ♪ Above the throne were flaming seraphim; Six wings had they, these messengers of Him.
With two they veiled their faces as was right,
With two they humbly hid their feet from sight.
- ♪ And with the other two aloft they soared; One to the other called and praised the Lord:
"Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!
Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth!"
- ♪ Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth! His glory fills the heavens and the earth!"
The beams and lintels trembled at the cry.
And clouds of smoke enwrapped the throne on high.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 960-Text: Martin Luther 1483-1546; ©1941 Concordia Publishing House;
Tune: Edward J. Hopkins 1818-1901; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

- ♪ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."
- ♪ Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise: I am with you evermore"?
- ♪ Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless Sweep across the crystal sea.
- ♪ Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered, Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim In the Eucharistic feast.
- ♪ Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 821 - Text: William C. Dix 1837-98;
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard 1811-87; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Amazing Grace”

♪ Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

♪ The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

♪ Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

♪ Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven’s joy and peace.

♪ When we’ve been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’d first begun.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 744 -Text: John Newton 1725-1807, vv. 1-4; A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, v. 5

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude