



February 23, 2025

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

- ♪ Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
- ♪ Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- ♪ Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- ♪ While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

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Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

As by a man came death,

By a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

As in Adam all die,

So also in Christ shall all be made alive.

What is sown is perishable;

What is raised is imperishable.

1 Cor. 15:21–22, 42

Confession and Absolution

Confident of our Lord’s victory over death, leading all who follow Him by faith, let us confess our sins. “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” We confess our failure to love our enemies, O Lord.

We have responded to them as they have dealt with us. We have not done to them as we wish they would have done to us. Forgive us, Father.

“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?” We confess our giving preference to people who are like us.

We have loved those near and dear to us and have dealt with others without love and mercy. Forgive us, Lord Jesus.

“Judge not, and you will not be judged.” We confess our judgment of people we think are not up to the standards we think we can meet.

We have failed to pass on the forgiveness we have received from You, O Holy Spirit.

Forgive us, Lord our God.

“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” Your sins have been forgiven by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! As a called and ordained servant of His, I therefore forgive you in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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*

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

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Old Testament Reading

Genesis 45:3–15

³And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So 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. ⁹Hurry 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 tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down

here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁰Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn *Please Stand*

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner;
It must not suffer loss. From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; Stand forth in mighty conflict
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.
- ♪ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,
The next the victor's song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Pre-School Sings *Please Be Seated*

Children's Message

The Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.

Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness

To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great is...

♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. ~Great is....

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Proclamation of the Word

“Control + Alt + Delete”

1 Corinthians 15:20–26

Offering and Musical Offering

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

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord's 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*

“When Peace Like a River”

♪ When peace, like a river, attendeth my way When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

~It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.

♪ Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,

That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. ~It...

♪ He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,

Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~It...

♪ And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. ~It....

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Postlude