

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Giving Love

February 23 & 24, 2019

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

In these Sundays after the Epiphany, we have observed many of the miracles of our Lord, who came to save us in body and soul. We give thanks for His many gifts of life and health and daily bread, but especially for our new birth in Holy Baptism—the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life. Today we are reminded that because we have received such great, generous, and life-giving blessings from God, we now are enabled to give and share the love of God with others who need God's blessings.

WELCOME

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord! (Psalm 117, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #844 “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace”

Lord of all nations, grant me grace To love all people, ev'ry race;
And in each person may I see My kindred, loved, redeemed by Thee.

Break down the wall that would divide Thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue; Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, lord, where I have erred by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do Will grieve my wounded Lord anew.

Give me Thy courage, Lord, to speak Whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, Help me forgive, rememb'ring Thee.

With Thine own love may I be filled And by thy Holy Spirit willed,
That all I touch, where'er I be, May be divinely touched by thee.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

People: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As the patriarch Joseph received his brothers in spite of their sin and because of God's gracious providence, so we are called this day to be renewed by the forgiveness of our sins. Let us then confess our sins to God our gracious Father.

People: Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another by our thoughts, words, and deeds, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By your grace revealed to us in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us your deliverance and forgiveness. Renew a right heart within us by your love and mercy. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

People: ♪ Lord, God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, make us instruments of your peace that we share with all other people the gift of your love and forgiveness; 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 *Genesis 45:3–15* (Joseph provides for his brothers and family.) And 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. So 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. 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And 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 tarry. You 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. There 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.’ And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42* (The resurrection body)

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What 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.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake 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. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There 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. There 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. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 CHOIR ANTHEM “*Deep Waters*” Pepper Choplin

(Rise)

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 6:27–38* (Love your enemies.)

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To 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. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?

For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And 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. But 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. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #727 "On Eagles' Wings"

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain:

And He will raise you up on eagles' wings.

Bear you on the breath of dawn,

Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,

And famine will bring you no fear;

Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

You need not fear the terror of the night, Nor the arrow that flies by day;

Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

For to His angels He's given a command To guard you in all of your ways;

Upon their hands they will bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone. *Refrain*

SERMON

"He Loved and Forgave Them!"

Genesis 45:3-15

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** 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 book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray, Lord, with Joseph of old, who endured hardship and struggle and yet believed it would come to good. Bring all things to completion according to your wisdom and purpose.

People: Direct our lives and give us faith to see that you can work all things together for good.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, that you would fill us with your grace and love, that we might return good in the face of evil, love one another in purity, and share your bounty with all those in need.

People: Bless us to see life as an opportunity to love and serve others and, in so doing, have faith to see that we are actually serving our Lord in these things.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and from the paralysis of fear.

People: Help us to know with joy our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for your Church; for an end to the earthly divisions that grieve you; for the true unity of doctrine and faith in your Word.

People: We pray for those who lead us in the Synod, the district, the circuit and this congregation. Bless also our Together in Mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family as well as Rachel Meyer.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for all pastors, missionaries and church workers. Lead them to be faithful in their service and to serve your people with compassion and love.

People: Bless all the places where we hear your Word and serve our neighbor in Christ's name, both here in this place and throughout the world.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, in thanksgiving for the blessings and benefits of Holy Baptism, especially as Miriam Rosalinda Sanchez Loomans is baptized into Christ this weekend.

People: Bless parents, godparents, and all of us to help nurture this little one in the faith as we grow together as the family of Christ.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for the civil authority and for those responsible to you for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them to faithfully pursue the cause of justice and to protect and defend life from its natural beginning to its natural end.

People: Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us both here and abroad.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for your comfort upon all who suffer. Deliver the sick according to your will, and sustain those troubled in body or soul by your grace. Especially do we pray for Russell, Cliff, Susan, Marlene, Nancy, Grant, Henry, LuEva, Nancy, Marge, Dolores, Dick, Herb, Cindy, Arlene, Shirley, Russ, Gladys, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan, Sarah and those we name in our hearts. Be with the dying and grant them peace at the last, and give your comfort to those who grieve.

People: Give to all patience and courage, that they may endure these times of trial with hope in their hearts.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, for your love to have its way with us. Lead us to expect no reward, and teach us from your own example not to act from self-interest but to love even our enemies and to serve those in need.

People: End all bitterness and strife, and let your forgiveness cover us in our lives together as you cover us with the blood of Christ before your heavenly throne.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, giving you thanks for all your blessings. This day we especially thank you for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, thanking you for teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, coaches, and for a wonderful weekend of basketball.

People: We also rejoice with Barb Heimsoth and family as they rejoice in Jerry's tenth anniversary of entering heaven, thanking you also for the years of his teaching ministry.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, in thanksgiving for the gift of this Holy Eucharist and for a right heart as we prepare to commune upon the flesh and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: As we receive this precious gift, equip us with your love, that we may love you above all and our neighbors as ourselves.

Pastor: We pray, Lord, to grant us these and all things good and wholesome and profitable to our salvation, through the merits and mercies of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in union with you and the Holy Spirit, the one eternal God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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 Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN “Behold the Lamb”

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us:

And we remember the promise made

that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

**Refrain: So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.**

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, torn for you:

Eat and remember the wounds that heal,

the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.

**Refrain: So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.**

The blood that cleanses ev’ry stain of sin, shed for you:

Drink and remember He drained death’s cup

that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

**Refrain: So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.**

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond

and to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ

as His body here on earth.

**Refrain: As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we’ll join in the feast of heav’n around the table of the King.**

HYMN #851 “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed ‘Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, “You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be , O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, “Give as I have giv’n to you”?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

HYMN #848 “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy’s perfect deed,
We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose Ev’ry gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn the dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love’s revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, Forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom May your mercy know and live.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. By participation in the body and blood of Christ, you have blessed us to be a blessing to those around us, in the fellowship of your Church, in our families, among our friends and even our enemies. Receive our sincere thanksgiving for your forgiveness and your grace; 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: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us. God, our God, shall bless us.

People: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

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.

CLOSING HYMN #814 "O Bless the Lord, My Soul"

O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within in me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!

'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.

He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th' oppressed.

His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.

Preacher & Liturgist Saturday
Liturgist Sunday
Lector
Acolytes
Children's Message
Organist & Bell Director
Choir Director

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Noah Kegley
Marc Stefanic
Brooke Hluchnik, Aubrey Kadolph
Laurel Privatt
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke

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