



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025



**Pre-service Music**

**Welcome and Announcements**

## **Confession and Absolution**

**Invocation**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**Confession and Absolution**

- P** 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. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,
- C** **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- C** **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**
- P** Behold, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In mercy, Almighty God has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit
- C** Amen.

**Peace of the Lord**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.

# Service of the Word

## Gathering Hymn: LSB 660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.  
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;  
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.  
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.  
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.  
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead  
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;  
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.  
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.  
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.  
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818-88, alt.  
Tune: George J. Webb, 1803-87  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Kyrie

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
- C** **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 and Collect of the Day

**L** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**L** 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.

**G** **Amen.**

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 45:3–15*

**A** The Old Testament reading is from the forty-fifth chapter of the book of Genesis.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>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." <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

### The Psalm

*Psalm 103:1–13; antiphon: v. 8*

**L** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**G** **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

**L** who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**G** **who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**L** who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**G** **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**L** He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**G** **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**L** He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**G** **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

**L** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**G** **as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

- L** As a father shows compassion to his children,
- C** so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

- A** The Epistle reading is from the fifteenth chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians.

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

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>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." <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup>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.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>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. <sup>41</sup>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.

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

- A** This is the Word of the Lord
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual for the Season of Epiphany

- L** Praise the LORD, all nations!
- C** Extol him, all peoples!
- L** For great is his steadfast love toward us,
- C** and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.
- L** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
- C** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## Solo: There's a Spirit in the Air

Original text: Brian Wren Text revisions and tune: John Perovich

## Gospel Acclamation

- C** Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle\_lujah!  
Hallelujah! Halle\_lujah!

Text: arr. Mark Sedio  
Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: onelicense.net no. #A-724537

## Verse

- P** Alleluia. Be merciful
- C** Even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

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

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

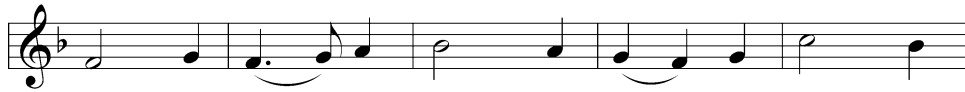
<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day: LSB 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own, With the sun - shine of Your  
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?  
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.  
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## The Apostles' Creed

- L** We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.
- C** 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.**

## Prayer of the Church

**L** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*(Each petition ends with the words, "Lord, in Your Mercy." The congregation responds with the words, "**Hear our prayer.**")*

**L** All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Offering

**C** Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,  
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."  
Time to share our gifts and say,  
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

## Offertory Prayer

**L** Generous God, the light of Your love and grace shines brilliantly into our lives. You send us out so that Your light would shine through us into the lives of the people around us. Grant that we would faithfully and joyfully use what You have entrusted to us to join You in this work that You are doing in this place. Accept the offerings that we give in the various ways that we give them throughout the week, as part of our work of joining You in Your work. Increase and grow our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,

**C** Amen.

## Offertory

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

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

## Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## The Lord's Prayer

- L** God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:  
**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy 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.**



## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

**G** 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.

## Distribution Hymn: Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees.

## Distribution Hymn: LSB 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to  
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, Your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–68, alt.  
Tune: Kirchengeseng, 1566, Ivancice  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.  
**C** Amen.

## Nunc Dimittis

- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.  
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## The Sending of the Eucharistic Ministers

### Benedicamus

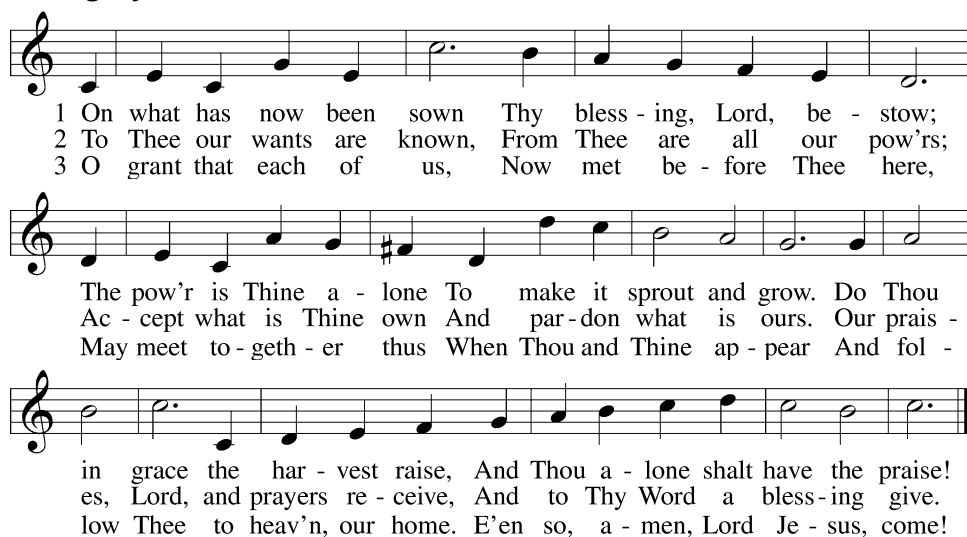
- L** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- L** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.
- L** As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.  
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.  
**C** Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.
- L** We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.  
**C** Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.

- L** We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.
- C** **As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.**
- L** As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and engage in service.
- C** **We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.**
- P** As you go, receive the blessing of our God:

**Benediction**

- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: LSB 921 On What Has Now Been Sown**



1 On what has now been sown Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our powers;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now meet before Thee here,  
The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -  
in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.  
Tune: John Danwall, 1731-89  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

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