

## WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE:** Carol from Four Extemporizations by Percy Whitlock

*The prelude is by British organist Percy Whitlock (1903-1946). It was written as an homage to Frederick Delius, a fellow Brit. Delius composed mostly orchestral music which depicted pastoral settings using rich and beautiful harmonies.*

*Please stand*

## INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of

the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN 418 "Rejoice in God's Saints"

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!



All: 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



*Refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and  
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
 has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## 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.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, 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. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of

dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 6th chapter of Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

“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

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **ANTHEM**

Women's Chorale, 8:15am "God is My Song"

Chancel Choir, 11:00am "Blessed Be the Pure and Merciful"

by Jack Kuntz

Blessed are the pure. Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed shall they be.

They shall be children of God.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful. His mercy shall be with them, shining down upon the children of God.

Be thou exceeding glad and rejoice, for great is your reward in Heaven.

## **SERMON**

Pastor Patti Morlock

**HYMN 322 "O Love, How Deep" (vs. 1, 2, 6 and 7)**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into**

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

*Response:* P: ...Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

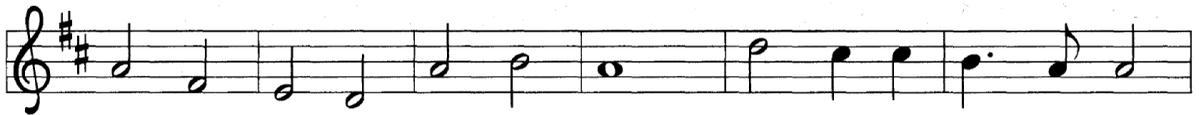
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

## HOLY COMMUNION

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

## BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

**HYMN 835 "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vs. 1-4)**

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: Festal Postlude

by Cuthbert Harris



# *Listening for the Promise*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany – February 20, 2022

*“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)*

Some people think being a Christian is the same as being a thinking, caring, sensitive person. We fail to see any difference between America and God’s kingdom. Church is where we come once in a while to bring out our better nature. But Jesus preaches difficult sermons and after listening to this one, we have a head-on collision with our world view.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies. Be good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other. If someone takes your coat, give them your shirt. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand them back.”

We have prayed, “Thy kingdom come.” But when Jesus came and after hearing this sermon, we wonder if we really wanted God in the first place!

Think of the most loving thing you could do for the very worst person you know. Now think of someone who has been terrible to you. Now picture yourself offering that person your loving hand. See? It really seems absurd to do what Jesus says.

When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, we may say, “That doesn’t really apply to me. I am so nice to other people that I don’t have enemies.” Be honest. If you have lived in this world, you probably have enemies. The better the person you try to be, the more people will react against you. Look at how the world responded to the preacher of this sermon!

This sermon may not be a list of impossible to accomplish dos and don’ts. This sermon is pointing to who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Jesus is saying to us that we should love our enemies and not retaliate when we have been attacked, because that is exactly the way God has reacted to us. Verse 36 is key to this whole passage: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

We feel the need to evade these commands. These are not suggestions, but actual commands to those who follow Jesus. When it comes to living our lives, deciding how we ought to treat other people and how we are to respond to things that are inflicted upon us, it makes a great deal of difference to know the sort of God we have.