

Sunday, Feb. 16; 9 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Larry Schaefer; Senior and Home Visitation Ministry

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Celebrate with Joy arr. Cynthia Dobrinski; JuBellation

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults

**and release us from their grasp.
Show us your loving kindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine."
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW #717; Let Justice Flow like Streams

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

Apostolic Greeting

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

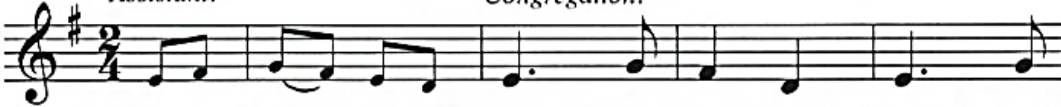
Kyrie

'Kyrie' from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen


P: In peace. in peace, . . .

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*



Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have



mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

P: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to refrain)


P: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word . . . (to refrain)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:



God. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

'Now The Feast' vs. 1, 3 from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Psalm 1 (*read responsively*)

¹Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**²but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

³They are like trees
 planted by streams of water,
 which yield their fruit in its season,
 and their leaves do not wither.
 In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴**The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶**for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

'Alleluia' from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

Congregation:

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

Optional Repeat

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea,

Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at 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 will be filled.

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

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors 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 will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *(please sit)*

“On the Level Field” Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #726; *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come 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 People

Petition:
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)

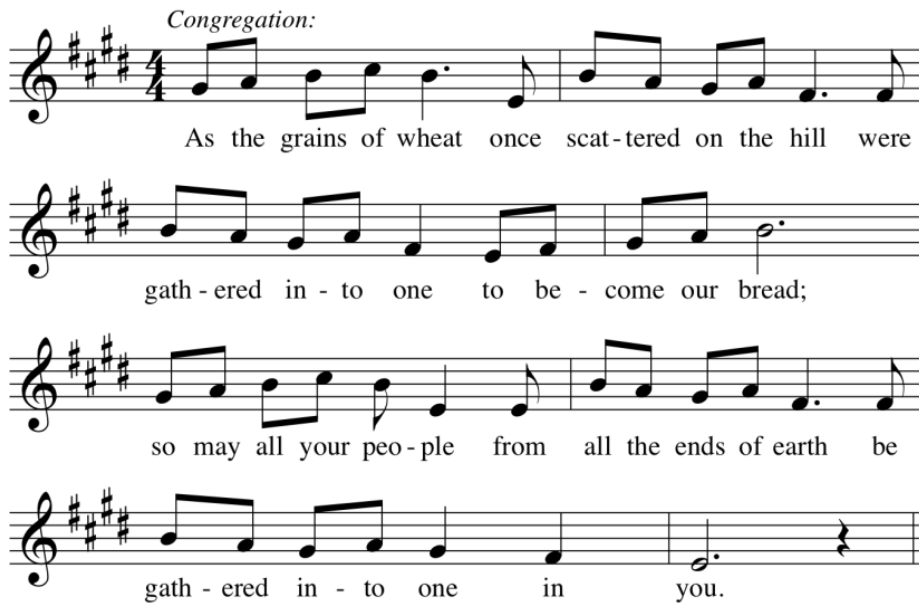
Offering *(please sit)*

When the Poor Ones by Jose Antonio Olivar; St. John's Choir

Offertory *(please stand – Acolytes receive the offering)*


'As the Grains of Wheat' vs.2 from *Now the Feast and Celebration* by Marty Haugen

Refrain
Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

to Refrain

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Invitation to the Table *(please sit)*

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)

in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
(In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.

- 4 (Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
(Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Nourishing God,
**at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.**

Benediction

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #723; *Canticle of the Turning* vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things

that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Sending

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In honor of Pastor Christine and in gratitude for her return among us by Eric Nielsen

Chancel Flowers

In memory of Luke Dowell by Uncle Jerry

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Margaret Kinderman
Lector	Cora Klawiter
Acolytes	Wyatt Moessner, Emory Hanson
Ushers	Norb Kirk, Jean Jirovec
Greeters	Bryan Sedlander, Ron Norby
Communion Servers	Kathy Freitag, Cheryl Mattison, Diana Hogenson, Pam Sorebo
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Lois Mai
Musicians	Linda Ranney, accompanist; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir; JuBellation Handbell Choir

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