

Sunday, Feb. 23; 9 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



**St John's**  
Lutheran Church

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

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Temple Talk**

Lydia Elko, Communications and Volunteer Engagement Coordinator; Realm

### **Prelude**

*(Acolytes light the candles)*

Linda Ranney

### **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 #656; *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1     Blest be the tie that binds  
      our hearts in Christian love;  
      the unity of heart and mind  
      is like to that above.
  
- 3     We share our mutual woes,  
      our mutual burdens bear,  
      and often for each other flows  
      the sympathizing tear.
  
- 4     From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
      and sin we shall be free;  
      and perfect love and friendship reign  
      through all eternity.

## 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.**

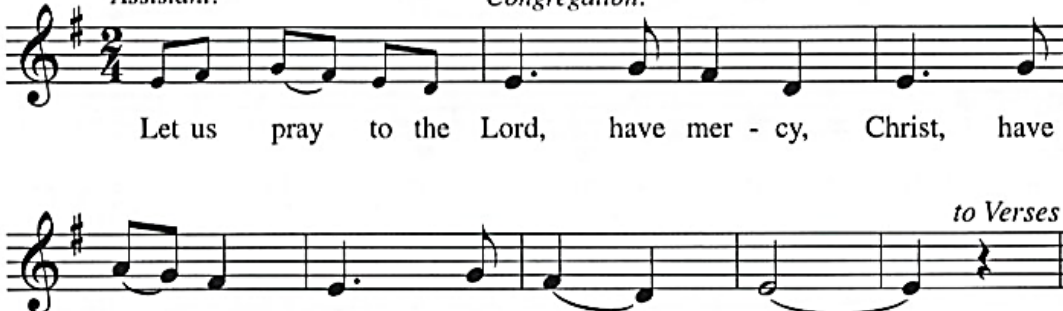
## Kyrie

'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)

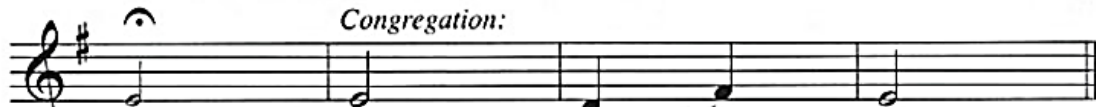
P: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the  
strength to live your word . . . (to refrain)

*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

*Refrain*

freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

*Refrain*

God; to make all things new.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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. Amen.**

## Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <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 five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> 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 delay. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.’ ” <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reading: Psalm 37:1-11; 39-40 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
**<sup>2</sup>for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.**  
<sup>3</sup>Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
**<sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**  
<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
**<sup>6</sup>He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.**

**Do not fret — it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

<sup>10</sup>**Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the land,  
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

<sup>39</sup>**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;  
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>The LORD helps them and rescues them;  
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

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*

The musical notation is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

## Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, 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> 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. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> 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.”

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

## Sermon *(please sit)*

*“Living Large”* -- Pastor Christine Emerson

## Hymn of the Day *(please stand)*

ELW #615; *In All Our Grief*

- 1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you.  
O God, you know all that we think or do,  
you know the pain we put each other through.

### *Refrain*

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord, grant us peace.

- 2 Help us to put aside the angry word,  
the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt.  
Teach us the way in which love best is served. *Refrain*
- 3 You did not even spare your only Son.  
He lived our griefs and bore all evil done,  
but through his cross, redemption has been won. *Refrain*
- 4 God, when we suffer all that we can bear,  
then let us know that you in truth are near  
and will not leave us lost in all our fear. *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)*

*By Our Love* by Tom Kendzia; St. John's Choir

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

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

(Verse 2)

### 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.)*



- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

### **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)*

ACS #1043; *Spirit, Open My Heart*

### *Refrain*

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.  
Spirit, open my heart.

1 God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain*

2 Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. *Refrain*

3 May I weep with those who weep;  
share the joy of friend and neighbor.  
As I live from day to day,  
love will be my finest labor. *Refrain*

## Sending

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Linda Ranney

## Altar Flowers

In Memory of loved ones by Cheryl Mattison

## Chancel Flowers

In memory of the Rassbach Wulff families by Gary & Suzanne Wulff

## Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Ruth Lundblad
Lector	Kathy Freitag
Acolytes	Amelia Peuse, Hadley Wolfe
Ushers	Kurt Kjelstad, Jean Jirovec
Greeters	Brian Wagner, Norb Kirk
Communion Servers	Eric Nielsen, Louise Alt, Jim Boulter, Deb Freeland
Media & Streaming	Scott Olsen
Screen Operator	Brett Issacson
Musicians	Linda Ranney, accompanist; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir

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