

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Organist

Cal Eggers

Worship Assistant

Tatia O'Connor

Lector

Julie Stoner

Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Variations on "Saints' Delight"

Dennis W. Zimmer

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

Hymnal p. 409

Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing, Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing, In Your court obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You, In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You, Thankful for the grace You give.
Once far off but now invited, We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to eastern sages, See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages, Myst'ry great of love divine.

Hail, O all inviting Savior! Gentiles now their off'rings bring.
In Your temples seek Your favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul and spirit, Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise.

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

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

C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made Heaven and Earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

A: *(sung)* Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P: Glory be to God on high,

C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world,

have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: 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.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3–15

L: The first reading for the seventh Sunday after the Epiphany is from chapter forty-five of Genesis.

Joseph forgives his brothers.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Hymnal p. 814

O Bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within 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 the 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 suff'ers 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.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

L: The second reading is from chapter fifteen of 1 Corinthians.

Paul teaches regarding the resurrection of the dead.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise)*

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you. *cf 1 Peter 1.25*

C: (sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27–38

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter six.

C: (sung) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus teaches about loving enemies.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Hymnal p. 851

**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 our 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 brought us With Your life blood 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.**

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Detroit"

Wayne L. Wold

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

P: Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, strengthen us in all our temptations, afflictions and sorrows, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we might continue steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end join You in Your everlasting kingdom of glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat

Hymnal p. 412

The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations come:
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.
To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.
His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.
Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace

and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

POSTLUDE

Toccata Concertato No. 5 (Salzburg)

Franklin D. Ashdown

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! Luke 11:28*

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.