

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

10 A.M.

## INTRODUCTION

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

## PRELUDE

Leader: May the peace of the Lord embrace us. All: May the

5 love of the Lord light our way. Leader: We come to you

10 lost and broken. All: Your brilliance illuminates our flaws.

16 Leader: You know how our prayers ever fade. All: Yet always you

22 open your arms to us.



+GATHERING+

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Send us your silence, Holy God, that we may reflect on the ways we have turned away from you.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Accept our confession of sin, and bathe us in your forgiveness.

**C Forgive us, gracious God. We fail to thank you for your gifts to us. We neglect those who are in need, those who could teach us of your love. And we have such a dim view of ourselves compared with your vision of us. You have given us wings and urged us to fly. But we keep our feet on the ground and our backs turned to you. Forgive us, mighty God.**

P Through the gift we can never hope to deserve, the gift of Jesus Christ, God takes away our sin. In the warmth of God's loving gaze--Father, ✝ Son and Holy Spirit--we are forgiven.

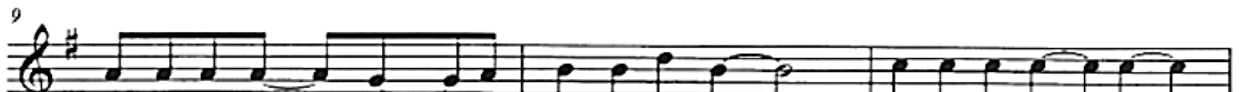
**C We are forgiven!**



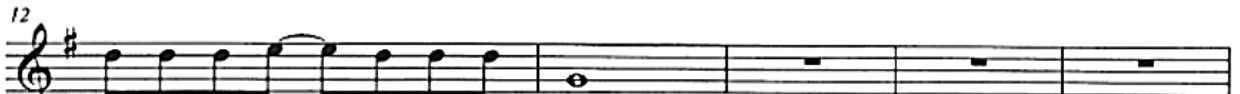
1 We are for-giv - en.\_\_\_\_ We're clean a - gain.\_\_\_\_\_



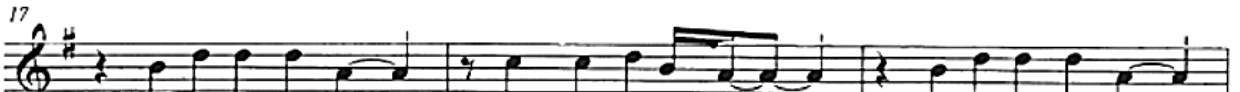
5 Gone is the dark night of sin;\_\_\_\_\_ in comes the light.



9 We are re - born\_\_\_\_ through no power of our own.\_\_\_\_ We are for-giv - en\_\_\_\_



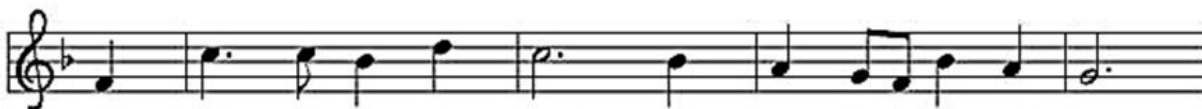
12 and we are giv - en a new start.



17 We are for-give - en.\_\_\_\_ We're clean a - gain.\_\_\_\_\_ We are for-give - en,\_\_\_\_



20 and we are giv - en a new start. A - men.\_\_\_\_ A - men. A - men.\_\_\_\_



1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
 2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
 3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,  
 4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,  
 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
 and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
 ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
 a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
 with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

*Refrain*

We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

## 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



If God were an ea - gle, he'd  
 If God were the wind, she'd run  
 If God were a moun - tain, a  
 God's more than a moun - tain, an



swoop through the trees. He'd flex all his fea - thers to  
 rings 'round the clouds. She'd swirl 'round the world just ca -  
 tow - er of stone, it would reach to the hea - vens, al -  
 ea - gle, the wind. God stretch - es be - yond where our



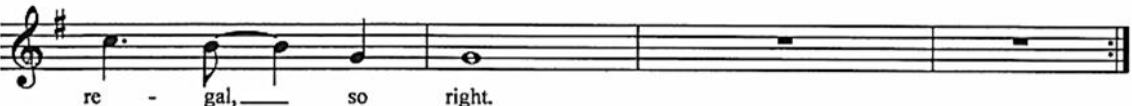
catch the least breeze. And peo - ple would shout,  
 res - ing the crowds. And peo - ple would sigh,  
 might - ty, a - lone. And peo - ple would cry,  
 hymns of praise end. Al - might - y and yet



"Oh, what beau - ty in flight!" If God were an ea - gle, so  
 "Oh, what gen - tle - ness there!" If God were the wind, whis - pering  
 "Oh, what strength we can feel!" If God were a moun - tain, a  
 del - i - cate and light, God came in the form of a



re - gal, so right. If God were an ea - gle, so  
 in eve - ry - where. If God were the wind, whis - pering  
 pow - er so real. If God were a moun - tain, a  
 ba - by one night, and that is the rea - son our



re - gal, so right.  
 in eve - ry - where.  
 pow - er so real.  
 hearts burn so bright.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY



P 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.

C Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

### FIRST READING:

#### Jeremiah 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>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.

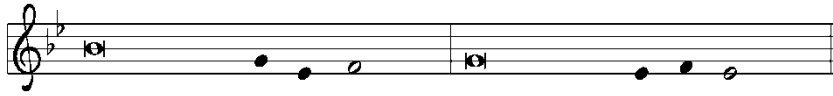
<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 1**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

**C** <sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

L <sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that | do not wither;  
everything they | do shall prosper.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**It is not so | with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

L <sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** **Amen.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised.

<sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those



also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Reader        The word of the Lord.

**C                Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:        Luke 6:17-26**

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

P                The holy gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

**C                Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>[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.<sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>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.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

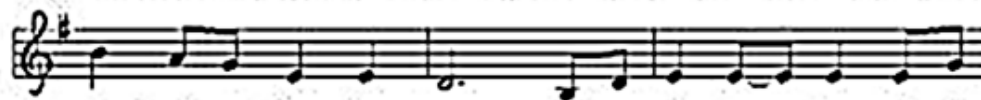
P                The gospel of the Lord.

**C                Praise to you, O Christ.**

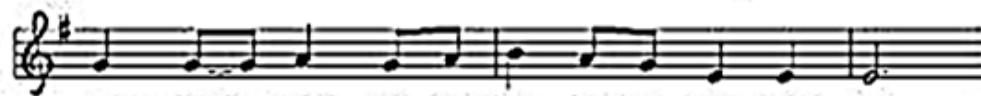
**SERMON**        *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*



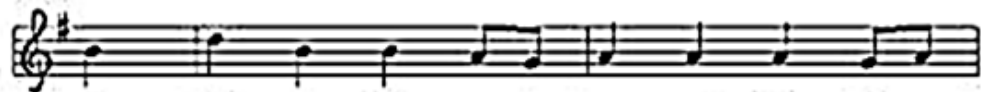
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a



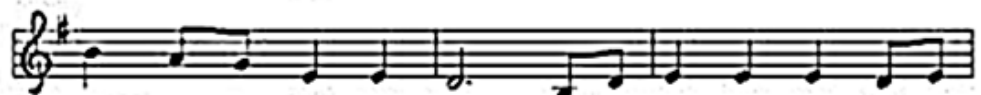
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.



*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**A** Let us confess our faith.

**C** 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 INTERCESSION**

*Each petition ends: God of grace,*

**Congregational response: hear our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*


## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## OFFERING HYMN



I reach in my pock - et — to



6 pull out an of - fer-ing as if this gift were real-ly — mine. It's not, Lord, I



10 know, but I cling to — it so — un - til my — soul's voice can — re -




15 mind me that what - ev - er I have, — what - ev - er I have,



20 — what - ev - er I have, — Lord, — is yours.



25 I vis - it with you — for an hour on Sun - days — as if it's a fav - or I



29 do. Lord, help me — to see that to live faith - ful - ly is — to

34  
turn my days o - ver to you be cause what - ev - er I have,

39  
\_\_\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have, \_\_\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have, Lord, is

43  
yours. And now down the aisle comes a

48  
gift like no oth - er. The bread and the wine make me free. The best gift of

52  
yours is the son we a - dore. The on - ly gift I have is

57  
me. Take me. What - ev - er I have, \_\_\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have, \_\_\_\_\_

62  
\_\_\_\_\_ what - ev - er I have, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, is yours.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **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.**

+ SENDING +

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

P May the Lord who placed this fragile planet in the sky grant us the wisdom to preserve it and the love to make it shine. May Almighty God--Father, ✝ Son, Holy Spirit--soothe our hearts and heal us with the peace we truly need.

C Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SENDING HYMN** *Arise!*

A - rise, a - rise, — em -  
 brace the day! — The — world a - waits, what will you say — to  
 let the peo - ple know you're read - y to live — by the power of this — feast and to  
 prac - tice the peace of our Lord? A - rise! - - - A -  
 rise, a - rise, — you're not a - lone. — The song you — sing will fol - low you home — and  
 hum in your heart. — So if you be - gin — to for - get whose you are, — fix your  
 eye on a star and sing: Lord! — A - rise! — A - rise! —  
 — A - rise!

**DISMISSAL**

- A We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:
- C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- A Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

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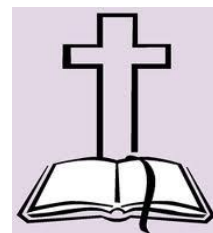
**MARK AND SUSAN WARREN DEDICATE  
TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS TO THE  
GLORY OF GOD  
AND IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR  
GRANDSON JACK'S THIRD BIRTHDAY.**

**Calendar for February 13 - 20**

Feb. 13	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
16	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
20	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

**Next Sunday's Readings, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany:**

[Genesis 45:3-11, 15](#)  
[Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40](#)  
[1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50](#)  
[Luke 6:27-38](#)



**SERVING TABLE**

Serving	February 13	February 20
<b>Presiding</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Jennifer Dritt	Kirsten Ebbesen
<b>Cup Minister</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Lector</b>	Stephanie Leitch	Mark Greeley
<b>Cantors</b>	Rudy Hehn Cassandra White	Susan Hehn Chris Reece
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Erin Kenney Billie Reardon	Judi Duffy Linda Eshleman
<b>Counters</b>	Audrey Post Billie Reardon	Bob Eshleman Linda Eshleman
<b>Announcements</b>	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom



## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Gordon Fleischer, diagnosed with throat cancer; Ruth Hartung and family, mourning the passing of her brother, Richard; Tim Larson and family mourning the passing of Tim's brother, Jon; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; Gladys Kane, recovering from surgery; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those "unaccounted for".

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen's Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of

Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2022:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

**RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK:** Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.