Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

The service continues with gathering song. As a reminder of the gift of baptism, the assembly may be sprinkled with water during the singing.

*GATHERING SONG

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us ELW #707 your Lord have bought us with life - blood of glo ry, you free - ly, give you giv - en Grant us hearts, dear Lord, glad - ly, to hum - blest Won - drous hon or you have to our have bought us with life - blood Lord of glo ry, you your grudg-ing for the price, as nev - er the lost ones that tre -With the good-ness melt of your own. sun - shine of your our sen - tence,"You char - i - ty own mys - te in your rious have the price, nev - er grudg-ing for the lost ones that tre men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures, pris - on, done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in hun - grymen - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, the sand the un - thank - ful bless - ings count - less as to warmed by length be - lieve more hap you, at that py the least, your face we view, say - ing by your hope, oh. of stay our souls on you: but, best to and the vil with your own un - spar - ing hand. re - ceive. and more bless ed 'tis to give than to poor "Give and need у, as have giv'n to you."

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.

all

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

your

grac - es,

with

your

love

our

love

re - new.

*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.

*GLORIA



*PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis

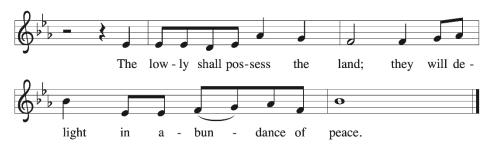
Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not 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; God 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.

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

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40





Tone



- ¹Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
 - do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
 - ² For they shall soon wither | like the grass, and like the green grass | fade away.
 - ³ Put your trust in the LORD | and do good; dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
 - ⁴Take delight | in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart's desire. R
 - ⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD, and see what | God will do.
 - ⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.
 - ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

 Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.
 - Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. R
 - ⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.
 - ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall | be no more; even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.
 - ¹¹ But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land; they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.
 - 39 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from 1 you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in 1 time of trouble.
 - 40 You, O LORD, will help them and 1 rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you $\ ^{\mid}$ they seek refuge. ${\bf R}$

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from Corinthians.

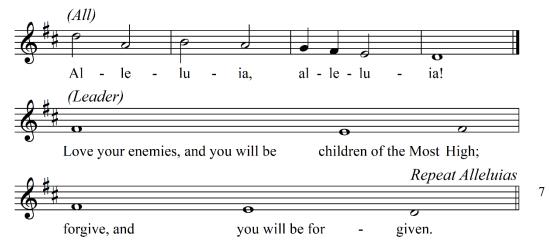
But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as God has chosen 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 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 human was from the earth, made of dust; the second human is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. What I am saying, dear family, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the dominion of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the alleluias.



*GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat 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 asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back 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 expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, 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, who 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."

After the reading:

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

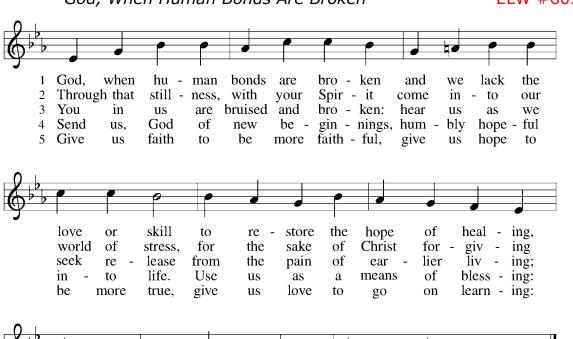
SERMON Pr Janet Peterman

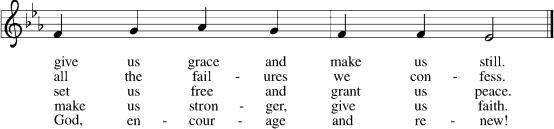
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

*HYMN OF THE DAY

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW #603





Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, +

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (especially).

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (other ministries may be named).

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Please be mindful of touch.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is also available on the cabinets under the bulletin boards.

Musical Offering



Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

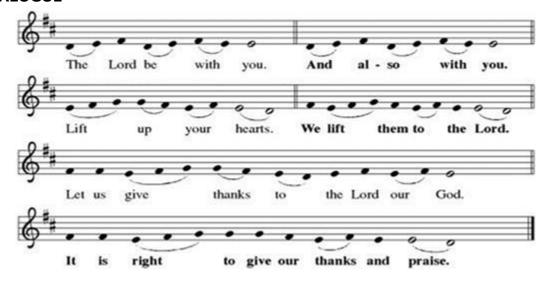
*Offering Prayer Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOGUE



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

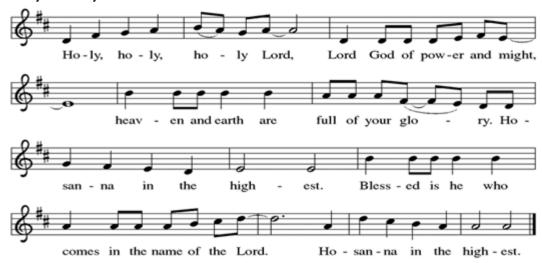
By the leading of a star, Jesus was shown forth to all nations;

in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty Lord,
we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
From before the earth's foundation,
you loved us and promised us life forever.
Within the earth's deep sadness,
we laud your great and glorious might.
Despite our tears and sinning,
we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star.
Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear.
He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.
He keeps us yours and fails us never—
today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation, Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With joy we tell our story: Alleluia!

Alleluia!

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.

Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love.

And so we pray and praise:

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen, amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

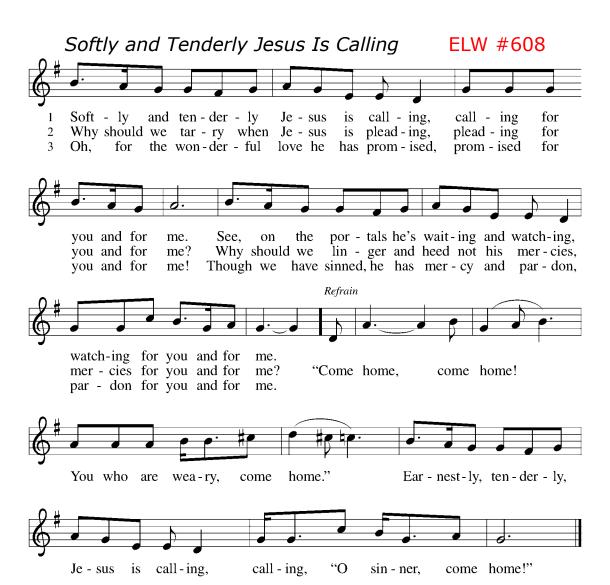
*COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the bowl provided. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you in your seat, let the usher know.

LAMB OF GOD



Songs During Distribution



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal-va-tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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TABLE BLESSING

*Post Communion Prayer Let us pray.

A brief silence is held.

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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

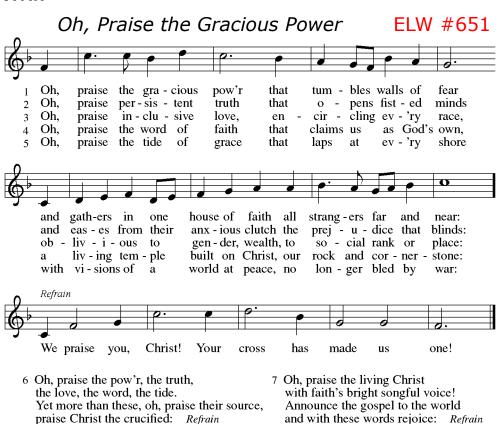
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN



*DISMISSAL Go in peace. Christ is with you Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

LEADING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER

ASSISTING MINISTER

TOM BECK

MUSICIAN

CHRIS HOLBEN

LECTOR

BERYL EVANS

USHER

GORDON GERHART

ALTAR GUILD

FELLOWSHIP

CAPS Scholarship Fund for Imani—Please note on the memo line of your check or envelope.

Beyond Worship, Singing the Spirituals—March 9 at 11:00am in Kimes Hall.

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ELW #707 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

ELW #603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889 Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

ELW #677 This Little Light of Mine

Text: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Arr. ©Horace Clarence Boyer

ELW #608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Music: Will L. Thompson

ELW #481 Come to the Table

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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admin. Word Music; and word Music

ELW #651 Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: Carol Doran, b. 1936

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