

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 13, 2022

THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Pastor: During the middle weeks of the winter season, many homes receive catalogs in the mail from seed and nursery companies that are filled with pictures of beautiful plants and trees. It is easy to project what we see in those catalogs into our own yards and gardens. But before we do any ordering, we must consider whether we can provide settings in which those plants and trees can flourish. In both the Old Testament Reading and the Psalm of the Day, we are given images not only of plants and trees that flourish, but of people who flourish—people with faith in the Lord Jesus, who bring blessings in every season.

PREPARATION ✠

(Please stand)

HYMN

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” *LSB 901*

**Open now Thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him, who answers prayer,
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace.**

Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be,
To my heart, oh, enter Thou,
Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted,
Here Thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken,
Let me keep Thy gift divine;
How-so-e'er temptations thicken,
May thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee,
Let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 30:10; 43:3; Proverbs 4:18; Isaiah 2:5b

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!

People: (spoken) **O LORD, be my helper.**

Pastor: Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead
me;

People: (spoken) **let them bring me to Your holy hill and
to Your dwelling!**

Pastor: The path of the righteous is like the light of
dawn,

People: (spoken) **which shines brighter and brighter until
full day.**

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

(Please be seated or kneel for the confession and absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins. Almighty
God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires
known, and from whom no secrets are hid,
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy
name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

Pastor: Assured of God's great mercy, let us confess together that we, by our darkened, sinful nature, are estranged from God, and by our thoughts, words, and deeds have sinned and deserve His condemnation now and eternally.

People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. Although we deserve Your just punishment, we ask for Your unmerited blessing. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may be made bright by Your presence in our lives, joyfully serving You in time and through eternity.

Pastor: 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.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand)

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon: v.*

People: (spoken) **I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your just and righteous decrees.**

Women: Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD!

Men: Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart.

Women: You have commanded Your precepts to be kept diligently.

Men: Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping Your statutes!

People: I will praise You with an upright heart, when I learn Your just and righteous decrees.

GLORIA PATRI (sing)

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE (sing)

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Beautiful Savior” LSB 537 vs 1

**Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, You bless the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted. Mercifully hear the prayers of Your people when they call upon You, and give us faith to believe Your kingdom belongs to the humble of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 17:5-8 ESV*

Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:1–20* ESV

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are

not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH (sung)

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

People: (sing) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 6:17–26 ESV*

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are

you who weep now, for you shall laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

Pastor: Let us now confess the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, and speak together the section of Luther’s Small Catechism that tells of the redemption we receive from our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: I believe 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.

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” LSB 394 vs 1,2,5

**Songs of thankfulness and praise
Jesus, Lord to thee we raise
Manifested by the start
To the sages from afar
Branch of royal David’s stem
In Thy birth at Bethlehem
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest**

**Manifest at Jordan's steam
Prophet, Priest and King supreme
And at Cana wedding guest
In Thy God-head manifest
Manifest in Pow'r divine
Changing water in to wine
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest**

**Grant us grace to see Thee Lord
Present in Thy holy Word
Grace to imitate Thee now
And be pure, as pure art Thou
That we might become like Thee at
Thy great epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest
God in man made manifest**

+ SERMON +

“Blessed or Cursed?”

Text: Jeremiah 17:5-8 ESV (The Old Testament Reading)

Theme: To trust in the Lord is better than to trust in human strength.

Goal: that all listening would see the foolishness of trusting in human strength and see the wisdom of trusting in the Lord.

Outline

To Trust in the Lord is Better than to Trust in Human Strength

1. There really are only two ways: trusting in man or trusting in the Lord.
2. Do you trust in the Lord (“Blessed!”) or in yourself (“Cursed!”)?
3. Jesus trusted in the Lord and suffered your curses so that your trusting in yourself is forgiven and you are blessed.

(Please stand)

OFFERTORY *LSB pages 192-193 (we sing)*

All:

**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.**

(Please be seated or kneel for the prayer)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Celebrating the presence of the Lord in our midst, we pray for an increase of the Word, asking that God’s messengers may continue to speak with power among us, bringing us the Good News of sins forgiven in Christ alone. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

Pastor: Plant us like trees by living waters, that we bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. By Your Spirit, direct our lives that we live as God's holy people. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

Pastor: Grant that Your blessing of peace be experienced throughout the world and that we as Your peaceable people shine brighter with the light of Your love. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

People: In this time of prayer, we also make our petitions for the sick, the shut-in, and all who this day are in need of our intercession,....., that their prayers may be soon answered, and that they may be supported by God's people with care in the name of Christ. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

Pastor: Grant that we be numbered among the blessed who bring aid to the poor, food to the hungry, comfort to the sorrowing, and hope to the despairing. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

Pastor: With gratitude, we remember those sisters and brothers in Christ whose earthly journeys are finished and who now enjoy the promised Sabbath rest. Grant that we be guided in ways that honor their earthly lives as we anticipate the heavenly life that is to come. Blessed Lord, in Your mercy,

People: (spoken) **hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

People: (spoken) **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

People: (spoken) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And now we bless You that in Jesus Christ You have come among us, displaying Your heavenly brightness and sharing Your forgiving and limitless love. Grant us grace to hear Your words of caution and blessing with grateful hearts, remaining steadfast in hope throughout our earthly lives as we await the joys of heaven, where we will join in the eternal chorus of angels and archangels giving You unending praise singing:

SANCTUS (Sing) *LSB 195*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory**

Hosanna Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He

Blessed is He

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord

Hosanna, Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for the powerful Word and the Means of Grace through which You come among us to bless us. Grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we receive this blessed food and are strengthened and sustained by it, grant that our faith toward You and our fervent love for one another increase throughout our lives until at last we are granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

All: **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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI (Sung) LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of
the world have mercy upon us**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, have mercy upon us**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light” *LSB 704*

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.**

**Remove the pow’r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only you may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing
followed by the Post-Communion Canticle)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, again in Your kindness You have granted us peace, pardon, and comfort at Your Table of grace. Strengthen us through what we have here received, and keep us steadfast in faith and hope throughout our pilgrimage on earth, until as invited guests we feast with Christ the Lamb in His kingdom at the heavenly banquet. This we ask through Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

CLOSING SEQUENCE

Pastor: When we think of a place that is brighter and better than the world in which we live, our thoughts turn to the promise of heaven that Jesus made during His earthly ministry. On a summer day in 1531, Martin Luther encouraged his sermon listeners with these words: “We should learn to bring our eyes, our hearts, and souls to bear upon yonder life in heaven and in a lively hope await it with joy. . . . Our ultimate quest should be something better and higher: the blessed inheritance in heaven that does not pass away” (*WLS* § 1891). That brighter time to come is reflected in the Easter hymn “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won.”

Quotation in Closing Sequence is from *What Luther Says*, edited by Ewald Plass, copyright © 1959 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

HYMN

“Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” *LSB* 490 vs 1, 2, 5

Jesus lives

The vict'ry's won

Death no longer can appall me

Jesus lives Death's reign is done

From the grave will Christ recall me

Brighter scenes will then commence

This shall by my confidence

Jesus lives
To Him the throne
High above all things is given
I shall go where He is gone
Live and reign with Him in heaven
God is faithful doubtings hence
This shall be my confidence

Jesus lives
And now is death
But the gate of life immortal
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal
Faith shall cry as fails each sense
Jesus in my confidence

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The
Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
peace.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

HYMN

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” *LSB 729*

I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus
Trusting only Thee
Trusting Thee for full salvation
Great and free

**I am trusting Thee for pardon
At Thy feet I bow
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now**

**I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood**

**I am trusting Thee to guide me
Thou alone shalt lead
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need**

**I am trusting Thee for power
Thine can never fail
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail**

**I am trusting Thee Lord Jesus
Never let me fall
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all**

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

**Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor
Marie Brown, Organist
Glenn Cairns, Elder & Reader
Bill Switter, David Brown & Kathy King, Ushers**

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you in need of

Snow Removal

Spring Clean Up

Grass Cutting

Small Landscaping jobs

Please call **Ryan Ladach Jr** @ 947-252-0363

Serving our local area

Game Night: BINGO!!

February 23rd 6pm to 8pm

Kids Club Sock Donations

We collected 232 pairs of socks for Blessed Hope's
Community outreach program.

Thank you for making this possible.

THANK YOU FROM CROSSBRIDGE PRESCHOOL

We are so thankful to be a part of Mt. Hope Lutheran Church. It is a Blessing from our Lord that He brought CrossBridge Preschool to your building all those years ago. We appreciate all your prayers for our school and our families.

Also, a BIG thank you to Sherman and April for always being there and supporting us all year round.

Your partnership is a Blessing from our Lord.

From your CrossBridge Preschool team: Michele,
Melissia, Luz, Jackie, Veronica, Adriana, Cecelia.

Quilters

Next Quilting: February 17th

Attendance

Sunday January 30th 9:30 am 44

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact our Prayer Chain leader, Joan Hafkesbrink, at 313.565.6871. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Cheryl Toms & Spouse – February 14th

Birthdays

Joshua Haney – February 13th

Sis Hamilton – February 15th

Donna McCall – February 16th

For the Shut-Ins

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

George Morton, at home

Mack Mayfield, at home

Carmell Faulk, at home

Phyllis Witte, at home

Melvin Kimbrough, at home

Lynn Mayfield, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Mark Greenaway, Amy, Frank's Daughter, Amy's father in law, hospitalized, biopsy;

Shelly Bodnar, Niece of Linda Panich, Hospitalized for effects of radiations treatments;

Rosey & Angie, Nancy Dajos neighbors, recovering from COVID;

Family of Dorothy Magy, friend of Pam Benford, who was called to glory;

Meghan McHenry, prayers for healing of her illness.

Mary Farrarelli, Frank Pignanelli's sister, hospitalized with stroke

Kathy Crosby, Glenn Cairns sister-in-law, down with covid

Art Warren, friend of Lori Wilson, surgery

Shirley Ripke, prayers of thanksgiving for a successful surgery and is at home, but needs our continued prayers

Lynn Mayfield, daughter of Mack Mayfield, with ruptured cervical discs, confined to a neck brace for another four weeks;

Melvin Kimbrough, Carolyn's husband, at home now with Carolyn, using her nursing skills to take care of him

Jack Gurney, Paul Utcai's Nephew, hospitalized;

Kent James, nephew of Linda Panich, has progressed wonderfully under the grace of God with only a small patch on his foot that may have to have a skin graft