

# THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022

## THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

### PRELUDE

#### THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Pastor: “What shoes shall I wear today?” You may have asked yourself that question before heading to worship this morning. Most of us have many pairs of shoes from which to choose. But there is one kind of “shoes” each of us is to be wearing. As Paul counsels the Ephesians: ***“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace”*** (Ephesians 6:14–15). Choosing the right kind of shoes makes the day go better. Hearing the Gospel proclaimed throughout our worship and directing the days of our week in response to that Gospel makes our lives a blessing.

### PREPARATION ✠

(Please stand)

### HYMN

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul” *LSB 814 vs 1-4*

**O bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Let all in 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 thy 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  
Have sov'reign pow'r to save.**

## **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:** **O LORD, be my helper.**

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

**People:** **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: 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**

*1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

**People: Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We have transgressed Your law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We deserve Your punishment, now and for eternity. Merciful God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct our days by Your Holy Spirit that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light to the darkened world.**

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.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

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

(Please stand)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**INTROIT** *Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b*

**Pastor:** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

**Women:** **Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!**

**Men:** **For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

**People:** **Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

**Women:** **Delight yourself in the LORD, and He will give you the desires of your heart.**

**Men:** **Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.**

**Pastor:** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

## **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**

*“Gloria in Excelsis- Glory to God in the Highest”*

*LSB 154*

**Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His  
people on earth.**

**People:**

**Lord God, heavenly king almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for  
your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive  
our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One. You alone are the  
Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit,**

**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, You taught us to love our enemies and to be merciful as You are merciful. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us the gifts of love and peace without which we cannot live before You; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Genesis 45: 3-15 ESV*

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And 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. He 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 tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

**PSALM** *Psalm 103:1–13*

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

**Women: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,**

**Men: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**

**Women: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**Men: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**People: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**Women: He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.**

**People: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Men: He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.**

**Women: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

**Men: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**

**Women: as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**

**People: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

**EPISTLE** *1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42 ESV*

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own



order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Why are we in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

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 6:27–38 ESV*

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in

return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **CATECHISM** *The Third Article*

Pastor: The Third Article of the Creed is focused on the Holy Spirit and the ways in which the work of the Spirit intersects with our lives. In very few words, the Creed encompasses what really is important in our spiritual lives now and forever. We confess:

**People: 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.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

(please be seated)

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Amazing Grace” LSB 744*

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind but now I see**

**The Lord has promised good to me  
His Word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures**

**Through many dangers toils and snares  
I have already come  
His grace has brought me safe thus far  
His grace will lead me home**

Yes when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun

**+ SERMON +**  
**“In Joseph’s Shoes”**

**Text:** Genesis 45:3-15 ESV (The Old Testament Reading)

**Theme:** Through the agony of it all, like Joseph, in Christ, you'll be living God's real plan for you.

**Goal:** That everyone present find new meaning in God's plan for their lives as followers of Jesus—though that means suffering remembering that Jesus suffered in their place.

**Outline**

1. Wouldn't you want to stand where Joseph stands right now—knowing God's plan for you?
2. But Joseph knew God's plan for him now only after years of slavery and prison.
3. Only after such struggles by Christ will you be able to know and live God's plan for you.

(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: In holy conversation, we pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, that through her the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared, and we pray this day for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** (spoken) **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** We pray for our families and our neighbors. Embolden us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel that people may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever. We pray for the hospitalized and those who are shut-in during this season. We pray for the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our petitions are desired, . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** (spoken) **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As a community of God's well-loved people in Christ, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this life in joyful hope. Confidently, we await the time when we shall rejoice together with all the saints eternally along with the angels and all the company of heaven. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**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. *Psalms 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, Lord, our God. You call us to be Your people who find forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Christ. Grant that we may have a right sense of the joy of His presence in all the seasons of our lives. Grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord here given as the bread of life and cup of salvation, which

are a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen.**

**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, almighty Lord, for calling us as Your people and displaying Your abiding care for us. In many ways, through carrying out Your plan through both good and challenging times, You have blessed us with Your presence and have filled our cups to overflowing. Gathered as Your family at Your gracious invitation, grant that we be strengthened in faith toward You and in ongoing and forgiving love for one another as we await Your coming in Your glorious kingdom at the end of time. Send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer our thanksgiving.



**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**

**“Your Table I Approach” *LSB 628***

**Your table I approach**

**Dear Savior hear my prayer**

**Let not an unrepentant heart**

**Prove hurtful to me there**

**Lord I confess my sins**

**And mourn their wretched bands**

**A contrite heart is sure to find**

**Forgiveness at your hands**

**Your body and Your blood**

**Once slain and shed for me**

**Are taken at Your table Lord**

**In blest reality**

**Search not how this takes place**

**This wondrous mystery**

**God can accomplish vastly more**

**Than what we think could be**

**O grant most blessed Lord**

**That earth and hell combined**

**May not about this sacrament**

**Raise doubt within my mind**

**Oh may I never fail**

**To thank You day and night**

**For Your true body and true blood**

**O God my peace and light**

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

## **THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen.**

## **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.

Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to treasure the epiphany of our Lord and see in Him the fullness of Your divine presence. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal

kingdom. In the name of Jesus, our hope and comfort, we pray.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **CLOSING SEQUENCE**

Pastor: The season of Epiphany is the time of growing brightness in the Church as the glory of Jesus is revealed in word and in deed, leading us next Sunday (the 27<sup>th</sup>) to the Mount of Transfiguration, where the dazzling glory of our Lord is to be seen. That Epiphany glory continues to shine in the Church, in which we experience the kingdom of God here and now. American hymnwriter Timothy Dwight, president of Yale University in the early 1800s, celebrated the love of God for the Church through the words of a hymn that has been sung for more than two hundred years. To us in Christ, God has given ***“the brightest glories earth can yield and brighter bliss of heaven.”*** We sing:

## HYMN

“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” *LSB 651 vs 1, 3, 5*

**I love Your kingdom, Lord  
The place of Your abode  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved  
With His own precious blood**

**I love Your Church, O God  
Your saints in ev'ry land  
Dear as the apple of Your eye  
And graven on Your hand**

**Sure as Your truth shall last  
To Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield  
And brighter bliss of heav'n**

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Dave Brown, Elder & Reader

Gary Mason, Glenn Cairns, & Kim Armstrong, 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

## Prayer Requests:

Please hand them to the Ushers or  
Elder on Duty.

## Game Night: BINGO!!

February 23<sup>rd</sup> 6pm to 8pm

## 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.

### **Attendance**

Sunday February 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

#### **Birthdays**

Kayla Cox – February 21<sup>st</sup>

Ken Kosmalski – February 21<sup>st</sup>

Sandy Cairns – February 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **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;

**Meghan McHenry**, prayers for healing of her illness.

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

**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;