



Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 15 & 16, 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”
In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG - #858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.
Amen.

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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ 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.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
¹⁰ 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 1

R They are like trees planted by streams of water. (*Ps. 1:3*)

¹ 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!

² **Their delight is in the law [|] of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching [|] day and night. R**

³ 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.

⁴ **It is not so [|] with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind [|] blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when [|] judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council [|] of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way [|] of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall [|] be destroyed. R**

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.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain, and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ 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.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “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.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - #301 Bright and Glorious Is the Sky

APOSTLES CREED

**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 into hell.
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

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

A brief silence.

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage

those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **hear 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**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.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister leads the following prayer.

Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity,
water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile,
wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;
rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith, increase our hope,
and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God,
draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our faithful teacher Jesus gave us the words we need to bring us back to God and
our God-given selves when he taught us to pray:

**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.

SENDING

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN - #302 As with Gladness Men of Old

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

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Please remember the following people in your prayers: Anne Balko, Gary Boldt, Cindy Little, Arlene Posont, Nick Brock, Tara Henry, Larry, Helen Mattson, Paul Goodburn, Marilyn Cook, Al Young, Families of Kay Witty Brown, Gloria Johns, and Arlene Goodburn.

Nursing Home: Norma Seceast, Pauline Elavsky

Assisted Living: Pepper Van Landschoot (Jacobetti)

In Service: Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, Mikala Robinson, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

PRESIDING MINISTER: Bruce Dausey

ASSISTING MINISTER: George – Saturday

Volunteer - Sunday

USHERS: Volunteer – Saturday

Norma & Joanie - Sunday

ALTAR GUILD: Joanie Hinsa

MUSICIAN:

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Volunteer

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Saturday Worship Service 3:30pm – In person

Sunday, Feb. 23rd - Sunday Worship Service 10:30am-In person & Facebook



GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00am.

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 19th at 12p.m.

The Free Store will be open on Thursday, February 20th at 1-3 & 4-6p.m.

Support our Youth Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles to the church. Thank you.

VOIUNTEERS NEEDED – Eden is looking for two volunteers who would like to join the offering counters team. This involves one Sunday a month following the worship service. Please contact Joanie Hinsa or the office.

CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor.

Office: eden@jamadots.com

Pastor: pastorofeden@gmail.com

Please be sure to update your email contacts to use these email addresses. Former addresses will no longer be used, and you should get an email response through your email provider stating that the message cannot be sent.

In addition, if you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone, email), please complete the directory update form in narthex or contact the church office to update your information.

For Pastoral Care needs, please contact Vicar Elaine Robbins
906-450-3344, or pastorofeden@gmail.com