



Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

February 20, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, op. 99, no. 3

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation.

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In ✠ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ACS 1043

Spirit, Open My Heart

Wild Mountain Thyme

Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

Text © 1996 Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved.

Music © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*



3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

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; 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

(8:45) The refrain is introduced by the choir. Please sing the second time. The refrain is subsequently sung once where indicated.

The low - ly shall pos - sess the
land; they will de - light in a - bun - dance of peace.

Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart’s desire. **R**

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.
The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

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 only to evil.
For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land. **R**

In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge. **R**

(11:15) The refrain is introduced by the cantor. Please sing the second time. Sing the verses printed in bold. The refrain is subsequently sung once where indicated.

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for 'The lowly shall possess the land; they will de -'. The second staff continues the melody for 'light in a - bun - dance of peace.' The third staff shows the beginning of the next line of music, starting with a whole note G4.

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.**

³Put your trust in the Lord | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴**Take 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.**

⁷Be still before the Lord and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

**⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. R**

⁹For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- | sess the land.

**¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

**³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O Lord, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

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 he 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 man, 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 man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(8:45)



Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir: Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High; forgive, and you will be forgiven.
(Luke 6:35, 37)

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

(11:15)



GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse 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 begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them 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 hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But 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; for he 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ACS 1062

Build a longer table

Noel Nouvelet



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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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 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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ANTHEM (8:45)

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Blessed are the poor in spirit. *Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
Blessed are the sorrowful. *They shall be comforted.*
Blessed are the meek and lowly. *They shall inherit the earth.*
Blessed are those who hunger for the right. *They shall be satisfied.*
Blessed are the merciful. *They shall obtain mercy.*
Blessed are the pure in heart. *They shall see God.*
Blessed are the peacemakers. *They shall be called children of God.*
Blessed are those who are falsely accused. *Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Words: Matthew 5:3-10

Music: Kenneth Lowenberg (b. 1939)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY (11:15)

Pastorale

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

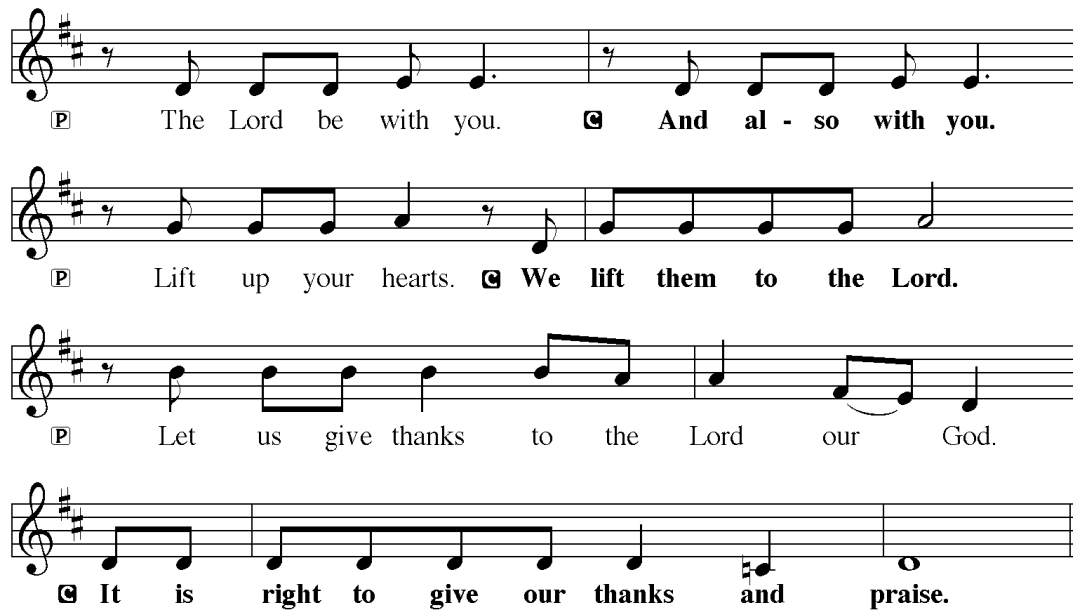
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

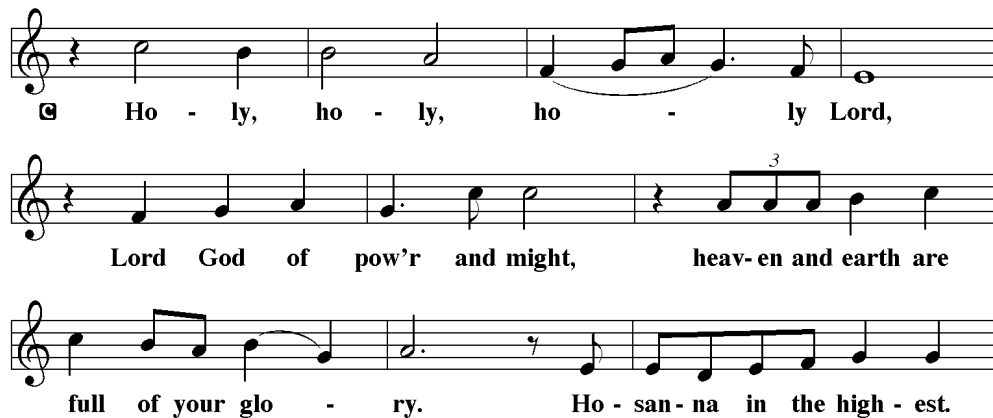
DIALOGUE



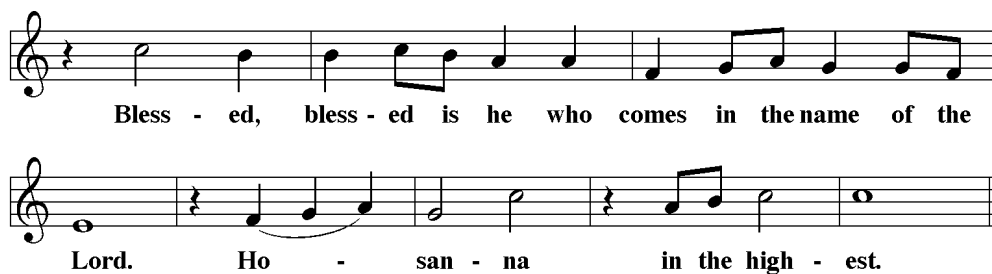
The Dialogue section consists of four lines of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. Each line begins with a 'P' (Piano) or 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic marking. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Preface section consists of three lines of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying: Your mercy endures forever.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures, granting them life and calling them to flourish, setting the sign of your bow in the clouds, the colors of your love and faithfulness. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you bound yourself to your people of old, blessing them with family outnumbering the stars and calling them to be a blessing to others, showing them steadfast love in every generation and calling them to be a light to the nations. Your mercy endures forever.

Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved, grafting us into your living Vine, and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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, he 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 this bread and cup we remember his life laid down and lifted up as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts of bread and wine. Bless us to be a blessing. Make us a sign of your faithfulness. Send us to tend and cherish the earth and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus, in your Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to God's table.

There is a place for you and enough for all.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

When communing, kindly receive the communion elements from the servers. The servers will then step back. At that time, please remove your mask and partake of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then proceed to the appropriate station to deposit your individual cup.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.
 Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Detroit

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;
 but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
 Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
 Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Thank-ful hearts and voi - es raise; tell ev- 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who
 seek the Lord re - jice, re - jice and
 bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us, O God, with your
 prom - is - es, and lead us forth in joy
 with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
 who rejoices over you,
 and who calls you by name,

✠ bless your going out and your coming in,
 today and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 835

All creatures, worship God most high!

Lasst Uns Erfreuen



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
 Have mercy.
 Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

READERS

8:45 a.m. Greg Sanders

11:15 a.m. Bill Schultz

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Schola Cantorum (8:45)

The journey from ashes to Easter begins....

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Ashes-To-Go South Parking Lot

Special Safety Measures in Place

(Weather permitting)

12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday Service Nave

Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion

Special Safety Measures in Place for Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Full Liturgy) Nave

Special Safety Measures in Place for Imposition of Ashes

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at Saint Luke Lutheran

February 20, 2022

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

20
FEB

8:45 am Worship, *in-person & streaming online*

10:15 am Faith Formation *in person*

11:15 am Worship, *in-person*

3: 00 pm San Lucas Gospel Meditation, *Online*

TRANSFIGURATION

27
FEB

8:45 am Worship, *in-person & streaming online*

10:15 am Faith Formation *in person*

11:15 am Worship, *in-person*

5: 00 pm San Lucas Missa, *Online*

Upcoming Commemorations

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921
Friday, February 25, 2022

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

Music Ministry Page

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude: Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, op. 99, no. 3—Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

Camille Saint-Saëns, known to most music lovers for his colorful orchestral writing, was also the organist of the Parisian church of La Madeleine and an organ improvisateur of great repute. In his Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, the toccata-like flair of the Prelude notwithstanding, he strikes a harmonic, melodic and structural pose of considerable restraint – a restraint typical of the anti-Impressionists clustered together in the French music academies—Bruce Neswick.

Anthem: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit—Kenneth Lowenberg (b. 1939)

This anthem is a setting of the Beatitudes as found in the Gospel of Matthew. It is a simple unison choir setting. The first section introduces each first part of the Beatitudes. In the second part of the anthem, the same melodies and text are repeated in the lower voices. The treble voices complete each Beatitude in turn.

Postlude: All Creatures, Worship God Most High! - Emma Lou Diemer (b. 1927)

This setting of the hymn tune Lasst Uns Erfreuen is rhapsodic. It alternates between harmonized statements of the tune and scalar passages.

HYMN NOTES

Spirit, Open My Heart

Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Ruth C. Duck is an internationally renowned hymnwriter, with over 150 hymn texts and psalm paraphrases appearing in denominational hymnals and supplements in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Scotland, and England. A scholar of worship and liturgy, Duck initially began her writing by adapting older hymns to include language that was more inclusive. She edited and contributed to the groundbreaking contemporary language hymn collection *Everflowing Streams—Songs for Worship* (1981). Born in Washington, D.C., Duck earned degrees from Southwestern University (B.A.), Chicago Theological Seminary (M.Div.), University of Notre Dame (M.A.), and Boston University School of Theology (Th.D.).—ruthduck.com

Build a Longer Table

David Bjorlin, b. 1984

David Bjorlin was born in Duluth, Minnesota and grew up in neighboring Hermantown until graduating from high school. After completing a one-year certificate at a school outside of Quito, Ecuador, he attended North Park University in Chicago where he graduated with a B.A. in History and Secondary Education. He went on to complete a Master of Divinity at North Park Theological University in 2011 and earned his PhD in History and Hermeneutics (Liturgical Studies) at Boston University School of Theology in 2018.

David currently is a Teaching Fellow in Music and Worship at North Park University and the Pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at Resurrection Covenant Church in Chicago. He has co-authored one book (*Incorporating Children in Worship: Mark of the Kingdom*) and written several journal articles on the history and practice of congregational song. He currently serves on the boards of both The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and The Liturgical Conference.—davidbjorlin.com

Forgive our sins as we forgive

Rosamund Herklots, b. 1905-1987

There are a few hymns which deal with forgiveness. The author has written, “The idea of writing the ‘Forgiveness’ hymn came to me some years ago when I was digging up docks in a long-neglected garden. Realizing how these deeply-rooted weeds were choking the life out of the flowers in the garden, I came to feel that deeply-rooted resentments in our lives could destroy every Christian virtue and all joy and peace unless, by God’s grace, we learned to forgive.” This hymn inspires us to be reconciled with each other so that “Our lives will spread your peace.” - Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Francis of Assisi, c. 1182-1226

The best-known English paraphrase of hymn is “All Creatures of our God and King” by William Draper. A more literal translation was made by Howard Chandler Robbins, an Episcopal priest. The version in ELW is a composite paraphrase that keeps Draper’s address to creatures rather than God, but otherwise seeks to cast Francis’s original into our vernacular. It avoids male-dominated language and gives Francis’s sense of our sisters and brothers in the creation.—*Hymnal Companion to ELW*

The life of the founder of the Franciscan monastic order is most astounding. Born to wealth, he forsook all for a life of asceticism, mysticism and charitable works with the sick and downtrodden. It is said that he even preached to the birds and they listened! An early environmentalist, his “Canticle of the Sun” was the first genuine religious poem in the Italian language. St. Francis saw all of nature and everything—including death—as praising God.—*Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins*