## Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

## ~ February 16, 2025 ~ Faith & First

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness LBW pg. 56 ELW pg. 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from 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 our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

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

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Jesus Shall Reign”*** LBW #530 ELW #434

Vs.1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its suc-

cessive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Vs. 2 To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises

throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per-

fume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

Vs. 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on his

love with sweetest song; and infant voices

shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.

Vs. 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the prisoners

leap to lose their chains, the weary find

eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

Vs.5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar

honors to our king; angels descend with

songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

**Greeting** LBW pg. 57 ELW pg. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** LBW pg. 58 ELW pg. 138

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P:For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** LBW pg.58 ELW pg. 139Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

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.

**Prayer of the Day**

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 to your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**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 are active in our life. Life without God brings a curst, 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.

**Psalm 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!

**2Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

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

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

**6Fro the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. They are like trees planted by streams of water.**

**Second Lesson: 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 is in vain and your faith is 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.

**Gospel Acclamation**  LBW pg. 62 ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**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 everyone in the crowd was 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 youon account of the Son of Man. **23**Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated 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 how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”***  LBW #383 ELW #669

Vs. 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
 Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

Vs. 2 Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
 as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.

Vs. 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;  
 redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

Vs. 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;  
 stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

Vs. 5 Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod,  
 and, quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, O saints of God!

**Apostles’ Creed** LBW pg. 65ELW pg. 105

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 the People**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promised 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.**

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.**

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775 ELW #752

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** LBW #401ELW #686

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus, Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68ELW pg. 145

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

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

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 71ELW pg. 145

P: Let us pray as Jesus has 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and + give you peace.

**Sending Hymn *“Be Thou My Vision***” WOV #776 ELW #793

Vs. 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Vs. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'n ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Vs. 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only,the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Vs. 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news!

***C: Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**