

"Blessed are you WHEN PEOPLE HATE YOU ... BECAUSE OF THE

SON OF MAN.

Rejoice in that day ...

BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR

REWARD IN HEAVEN."

LUKE 6:22-23, NIV

THE 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025 | 8:00 and 10:30am

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

VISITORS

We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

OUR WORSHIP

Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

1

ORDER FOR WORSHIP - BLUE BOOK SETTING 5

Watchword: For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. – Daniel 9:18b ESV

PRELUDE | WELCOME | OPENING PRAYER



Confession and Absolution

INVOCATION

The people stand.

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

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

The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.

- P: Gracious God,
- C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.

- P: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.
- C: Amen.

The people stand.



ENTRANCE HYMN

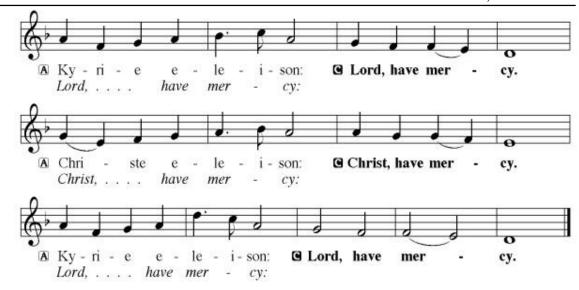
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Green Book 543

Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.

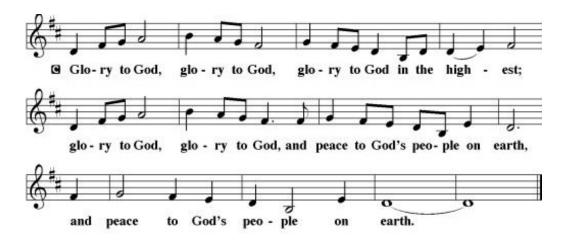


THE HYMN OF PRAISE

C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord God, mercifully receive the prayers of your people. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The people may be seated.



The Liturgy of the Word

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

Hear the difference between those who trust in men and those who trust in the Lord.

⁵Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. ⁶He 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. ⁷"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. ⁸He 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." ⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY Psalm 1

The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.



¹Happy 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 his law | day and night.

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 the righteous.

⁶For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,* but the way of the wick- | ed is doomed.

THE GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians.

The resurrection of Christ Jesus is what makes our hope possible. We live not only for this life, but for a blessed future.

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

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSE

The people please stand.



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

C: Glory to you, O Lord

P: ¹⁷And 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, 18 who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on 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 shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. ²² 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! ²³Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers 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 shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶"Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The people may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Green Book 324

The people stand.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition: A: Hear us, O God; C: your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.



The Liturgy of Holy Communion

THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.

OFFERING

Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

The people stand.



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

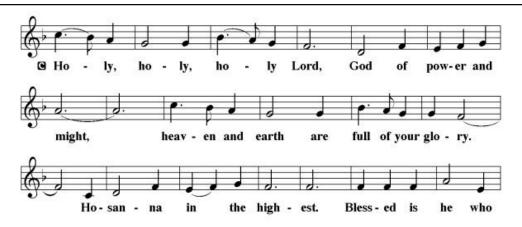
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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.

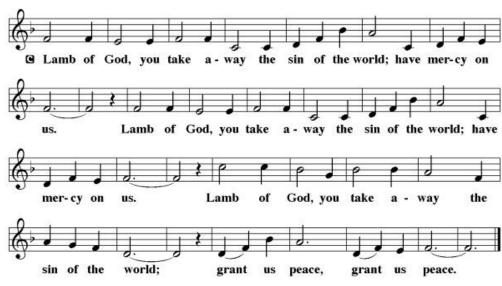
THE FRACTION

P: God brings forth wine to gladden us.

C: and bread to strengthen the human heart.

LAMB OF GOD

The people may be seated.



DISTRIBUTION

Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

Hymns during distribution: Green Book 316, 530

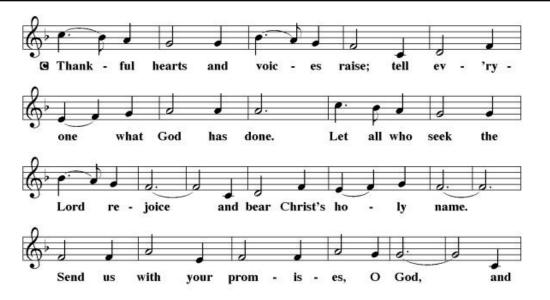
POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

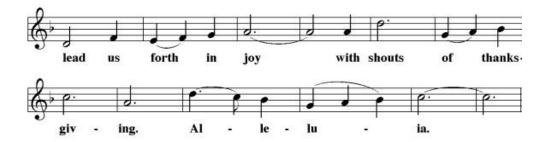
The people please stand.

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Sending

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God

16

Green Book 191

THE POSTLUDE

We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

17

Rejoice in that day,

and leap for joy,

for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

Luke 6:23, E\$V

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



COMMEMORATIONS:

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- Feb.18 Martin Luther, renewer of the Church, 1546
- Feb. 20 Rasmus Jensen, the first Lutheran pastor in North America, 1620
- Feb. 23 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156; Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg, missionary to India, 1719

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 7 EPIPHANY (FEB. 23)

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38