

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

Thank you to Bishop Emeritus John Roth for leading worship this morning

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for confession

P: Have mercy, O God,

C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

C: Blessed be God forever.

**Gathering Song* – “Blessed Be the God of Israel” ELW 250

(organ)

- 1 **Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David’s tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**
- 2 **With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**
- 3 **My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God’s people they are saved from sin’s eternal sway.
Then shall God’s mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray ... God of mystery,

C: Just as the crowds wondered about Jesus, we too, wonder about you. Who are you to us? Are you the one? Show us that you are God, mysterious, wonderful, mighty. Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Luke 7:18-35

Reader: Barb Davenport

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples ¹⁹and sent them to the Lord to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ²⁰When the men had come to him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”’ ²¹Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. ²²And he answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. ²³And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.’ ²⁹(And all the people who heard this, including the tax-collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John’s baptism. ³⁰But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves.)

³¹‘To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not weep.”

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon”; ³⁴the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” ³⁵Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.’

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of Praise – “Come and Behold Him”

(*piano*)

**Come and behold him, come see his glory,
come with an honest heart to see all he is.
We will discover all of his beauty;
his light will burn away all the darkness we’ve known.
Come and behold him, come and behold him,
come with an honest heart to see all he is.
Come and behold him, wait now before him,
come with an honest heart to see all he is.**

Sermon: "Are You the One?"

Song of the Day – “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” ELW 249 (*organ*)

- 1 **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**
- 2 **Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**
- 3 **We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.**
- 4 **Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**
- 5 **All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

**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 to the dead. 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.

**Prayers*

Stewardship Time

“In the Bleak Midwinter,” arr. Tornquist
Jean Welch, piano

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

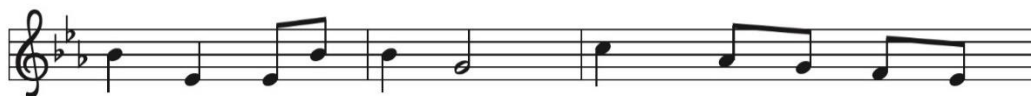
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



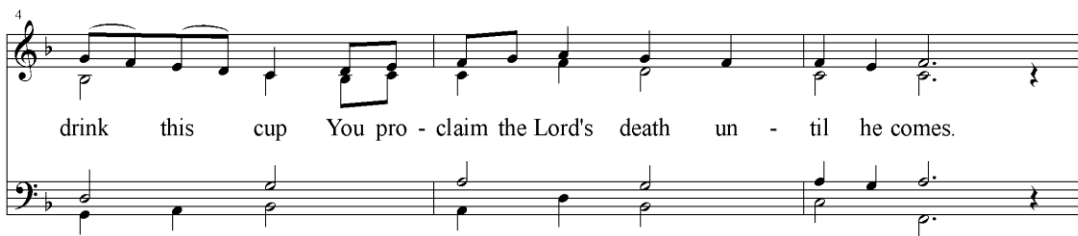
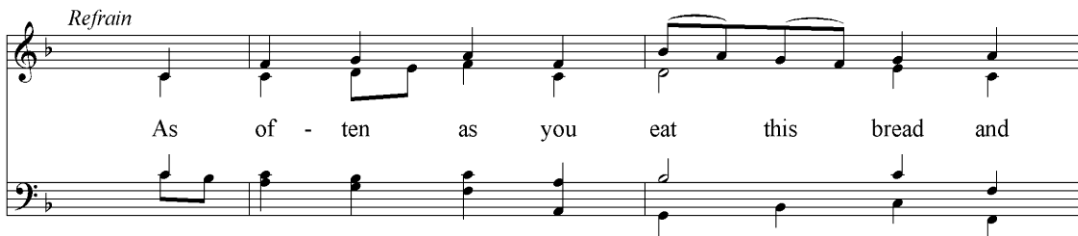
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Eucharistic Prayer*

**Words of Institution*

(piano)

P: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



P: On the night of his betrayal, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*
After supper, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*

**Lord's Prayer*

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

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

Communion Songs

“Oh, Worship the King” ELW 842 *(organ)*

- 1 **Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**
- 2 **The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**
- 3 **Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**
- 4 **Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;**

**your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.**

- 5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.**

“Seek Ye First”

(piano)

- 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you -- Allelu, alleluia!**
- 2. Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you -- Allelu, alleluia!**
- 3. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, Alleluia!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds
in † Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “These Are the Days of Elijah”*

(piano)

- 1. These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;
and these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,
still we are the voice in the desert crying, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’”**

*Refrain: Behold, he comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee, out of Zion's hill salvation comes.*

**2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
and these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world,
and we are the lab'ers in your vineyard, declaring the work of the Lord. Refrain**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.
"Come and Behold Him," by John Chisum & George Searcy, Integrity's Hosanna! Music/Integrity's Praise! Music,
© 1994. CCLI#973583

All Creation Sings, © 2020 Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House. Used by permission

"As Often As," composed by S. John Roth. Used by permission.

"Seek Ye First," by Karen Lafferty, Maranatha! Music, © 1972. CCLI#973583

"These Are the Days of Elijah," from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Reader: Barb Davenport

Usher: Hallie Mayner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Street

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Singers:

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Carol VanderKloot



Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 16, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**
11:00am: Bible Study

Wednesday, February 19, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Library

Thursday, February 20, 5:45pm: Church Council meeting

Saturday, February 22, 10:30am: Women of Faith Galentine's Party in Great Room

Sunday, February 23, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**
10:45am: Listening Session and Breakfast in the Great Room
5:30pm: Faith Inkubators

Saturday, March 1, 8:00am: Cooking for 9:00am: Men's Breakfast

The altar plants are given today by Sharon Zuiderveld
in honor of our homebound members

News Updates

Faith's Little Flock

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to healing including, why we rest on the Sabbath, Jesus raising the widow's son, exploring who Jesus is, and the healing power of forgiveness. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in February!

Contribution Envelopes for 2025 are available in the gathering area.

Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke

Following worship, join Bishop Em. John Roth for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on its significance for us today.

Discipleship Group

It's that special time of year! ♥ Swing by the Faith Library at 10:00am on **Wednesday, February 19**, for a heartwarming chat all about LOVE and everything it brings. Have questions or need more info? Contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or email khartz@sompo-intl.com. Can't wait to see you there!

Women of Faith – Galentine's Day Tea Party

Join us on **Saturday, February 22 at 10:30am** in the Great Room at Faith for our 3rd annual Galentine's Day! This year we'll be having a fun tea party with tea, cakes, scones, finger sandwiches, and of course, a special craft. Gals of all ages are invited. Feel free to invite friends to join you. **The RSVP date has passed**; check with Monica at 217-737-0475 about attending.

Listening Session

The Council invites you to a meal and listening session following worship on **Sunday, February 23**. We will enjoy some good food and fellowship, then, at our tables, discuss some questions about our ministry, what ways we can help meet the needs of our congregation and community, and how we can involve all generations. Specific questions have been emailed out or are available to pick up on the counter by the coat closet. We're welcoming any and all helpers to clean up after the meal. **Please sign up on the sheet by the coat closet if you plan to attend** so we'll be sure to have enough food.

Meal Signup for Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

We are looking for volunteers to provide meals when our children and youth meet on Sunday evenings. The meal is served from 5:30-6:00pm at the end of Bible Boot Camp and beginning of our youth night. Plates and utensils are available in the kitchen, and you are welcome to cook or heat the meal there as well. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet located on the counter by the coat closet. Thank You!

Faith Inkubators

Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Future events are scheduled for Sundays, from 5:30-7:30**. The next date is **February 23**.

Bible Boot Camp

Last Fall, we introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children. Pastor Adam warms them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all join with parents and older youth for a meal.

Our next events will be held on Sundays, March 9 and 16, and April 6 and 13, from 4:30-6:00. Spread the word and bring a friend!

End-of-Year Giving

For many years, Faith has designated money to be given to a variety of partners in ministry. This year, at our Annual Meeting, we approved \$20,000 to be shared. Below is a list of last year's recipients. **If you have a recommendation of a 501(c)3 recipient for this year, tell Patty Nelson (pattynelson1938@gmail.com) by the end of February.**

2024 Recipients: Hearts United in God's Service (HUGS), International Health and Development Network (IDHN), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western IL Youth Camp, YMCA, Faith Scholarship Fund, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Prairie Council on Aging, New Directions, St. Vincent DePaul, Jacksonville Food Center, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Faith mortgage.

An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber

Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber will be in St. Louis on Friday, March 7. A few people from Faith are planning to go and would like to invite others to join them. The event begins at 7:00pm. Carpooling is available. If you're interested in going or learning more, please contact Monica Proefrock at 217-737-0475. **Tickets will be reserved on February 23rd** so don't delay!

Jacksonville Food Center (Souper) Bowl Food Drive

Let's continue to help the Jacksonville Area Food Center tackle hunger! Beginning Super Bowl Sunday and through the month of February, we will be collecting food items like soups, peanut butter and jelly, and Chef Boyardee. You can put your donations by the table under the working cross in the gathering area. Thank You!

Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*