



House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, Year C

House of Prayer is a gathering of God's people connecting our faith to our daily lives,
so that all would encounter Christ in each person

(The "+" insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude: *Variations on Salvation Unto Us Has Come*

Stephen P. Johnson

Welcome and Gathering

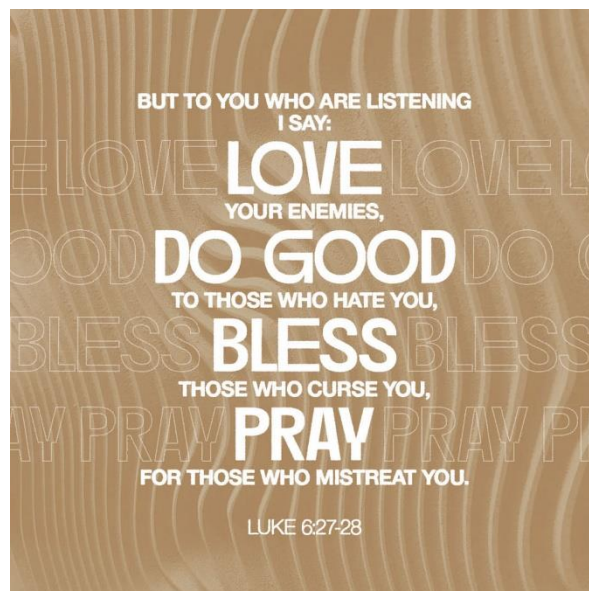
Announcements

Ring of the Bell (*please remain seated*)

Call to Worship

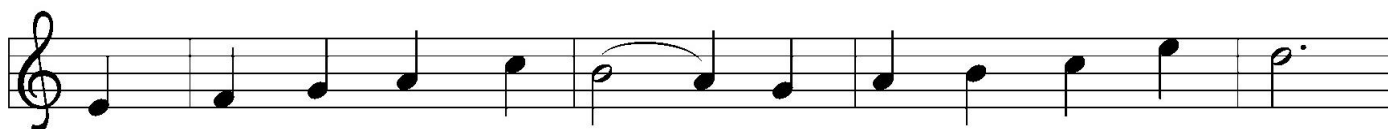
L: We gather as a community of faith celebrating that no darkness can extinguish the light of Christ. We gather to remember that love is more powerful than death.

C: We gather as people of faith in the light of God's world. Amen.

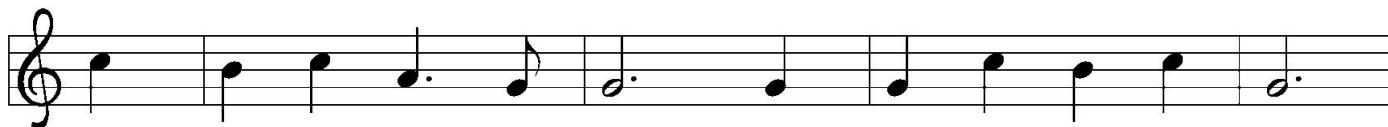


+Gathering Hymn: *ELW 853 When Morning Gilds the Skies* (vv. 1-4)

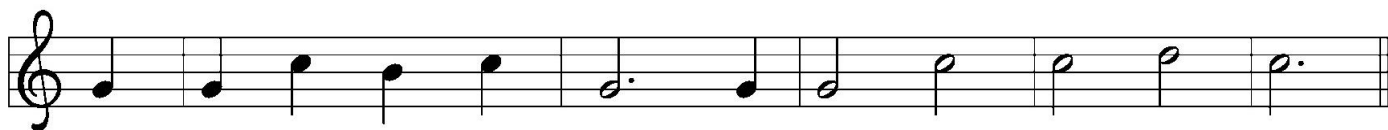
When Morning Gilds the Skies



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

+Confession and Forgiveness

L: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

C: O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.

L: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.

L: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**C: We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

L: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Silence for self-reflection and silent confession

L: Family of God, we join in the words of the psalmist's proclamation:

C: If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,"

L: Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.

**C: The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us HAS come to us in Jesus Christ
who binds up the broken hearted, heals all our infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin.**

L: So arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. In the
name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of the Day

L: O Lord Jesus,

**C: 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.**

You may be seated

Special Music

Blessed are the Peacemakers
Combined Choir

Rosephanye Powell

Word

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11,15

³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ 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. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do 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.**
³ Put 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.**
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.
⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;**

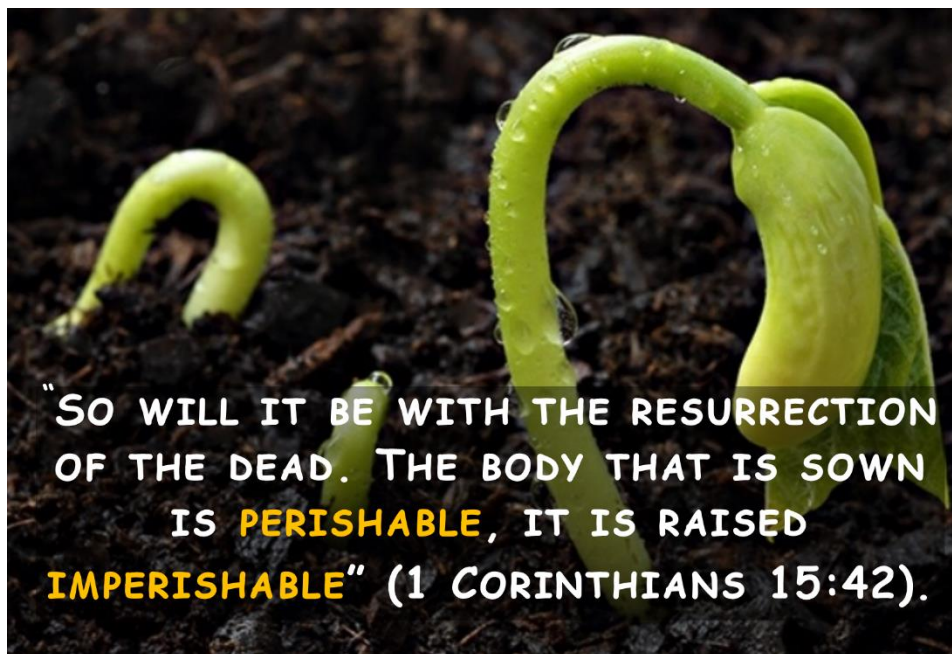
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

⁴⁰ 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.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. ⁵⁰ 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

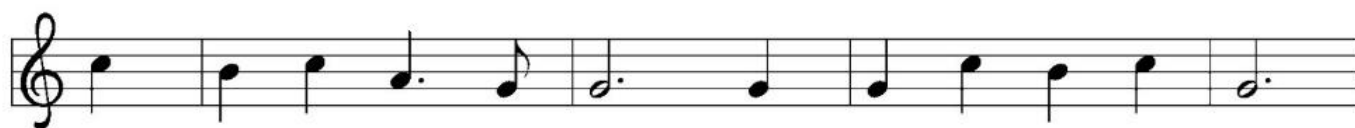


+Gospel Acclamation: *ELW 853 When Morning Gilds the Skies* (v. 5)

When Morning Gilds the Skies



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to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.
Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

+Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

L: The Gospel according to Luke, the Sixth chapter. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, 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 himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ 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.”

L: The Good News of God. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

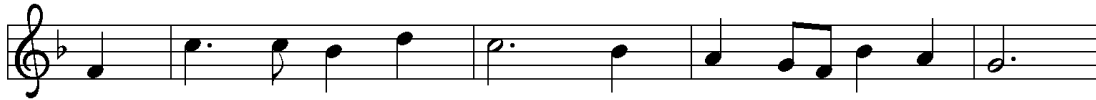
You may be seated

Sermon: Light of the World – Heaven is Here



Hymn: ELW 651 – Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (vv. 1-5)

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936
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+Apostle's 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.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession

L: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church,
God's good creation, and all who are in need...

Spoken Response: L: Loving God, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

prayers end with: Receive our prayers, O God, and make your presence known through the power
of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ, **C: Amen.**

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

Offering & Musical Offering:

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Combined Handbell Choir

arr. J. Honore

Offering Prayer

L: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should, at all times, and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God...we **stand** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... *(please stand)*

+Sanctus



+Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

+Invitation to Communion

L: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, experience God.

(You may be seated)

Communion

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.

Music during Distribution: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*
Combined Choir

D. Forrest

ELW 656 Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part choir. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines. The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

+Prayer after Communion

L: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

+Blessing

L: We have celebrated together that Jesus Christ came not only for Christians, but to be known by every person, every country, every culture on earth. For he is the Savior of all. May we come to know him better and then make him known to others, especially by the way we live.

And may almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



+Sending Hymn: *ELW 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude: *Fanfare on Salvation Unto Us Has Come*

Stephen P. Johnson

Worship Participants

Presider:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Preacher:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians:	Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist:	Tim Buendorf
Special Music:	Combined Handbell Choir; Combined Choir
Lector/Intercessor:	Jean Robbins
Communion Servers:	Pastor Eric, Charlie Robbins, Ann Barnes, Shirley Moen
Ushers:	Larry Markes, Roger and Cathy Shromoff, Brent King
AV Engineer:	Ethan Alberg
Communion Preparers:	Jeanne Lindstrom and Sandy Williams



House of Prayer Lutheran Church
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Richfield, MN 55423
612-866-8471

For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,
please refer to our website: **hoplc.org**
Give online or at hoplc.org

