

# WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

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## **WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.**

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 17, 2019

9:00am

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him and the power to heal us all.

### Overview

A fundamental decision is placed before us this day: Will we choose the way of blessing or the way of woe? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivot on which the decision turns. To be in Christ means that we get planted by streams of water and are rooted among those who thirst for God's reign. The mystery of our faith points the path to life: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**-WE CELEBRATE AND WE REJOICE-**

## The Gathering

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP            *“AFRICAN PSALM”*    by Viktor Johnson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION (excerpt from Iona Abbey Worship)

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unites us and sends us. **Amen.**

**A:** Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

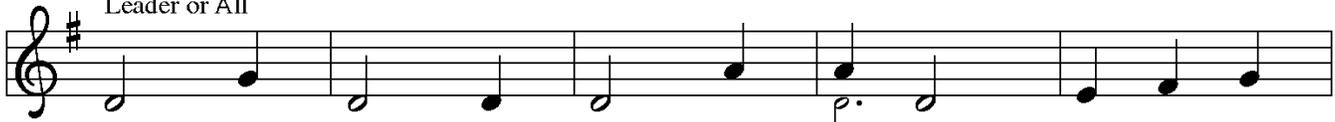
*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

Mighty and loving God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.  
We seek our own way.  
We divide the body of Christ.  
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.  
Let the words of our mouths,  
the thoughts of our hearts,  
and everything that we do  
be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus:  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me  
to proclaim release to the captives.”  
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ,  
I proclaim to you  
that your sins are forgiven and you are released.  
The joy of the Lord is your strength,  
and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 728 "BLEST ARE THEY"

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they . . . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they . . . . . who seek peace; . . they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



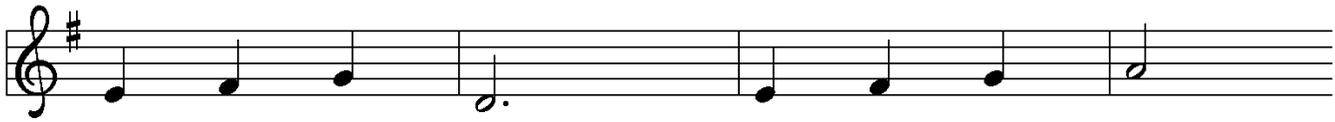
full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they . . . . . shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

## PASTORAL GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** 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.**

Let us pray.

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

*[Congregation is seated.]*

### *The Word*

#### FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings (17:5-11) that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

5Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

6They 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.

7Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

8They 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.

9The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

10I the Lord test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: PSALM 1**

***R: They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)***

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 God's teaching | day and night. R

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 wicked shall | be destroyed. R

**SECOND READING: 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.*

12Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15We 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



22“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors 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 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 what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

**SERMON: REV. JEFF GALLEN**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Apostle’s Creed)

**A** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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**

**A** United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Raise up faithful leaders to proclaim the gospel. **Guide us in the ways of love. Empower us in ministry and service. Lord, in your mercy,**

hear our prayer.

For the earth. Bless deserts and canyons, farmlands and vineyards. **Bring sufficient rainfall to lands parched by drought, and restore places scorched by wildfire. Protect fragile environments from harm. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For the nations. Grant wisdom to our elected leaders for the sake of the common good. Give courage to those who suffer persecution. **Give patience and perseverance to those who work to bring an end to injustice. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who do not have enough food; for those who lack money; for those who are estranged from their families; for those who worry about many things. Comfort those who mourn. Heal and strengthen those who are sick (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. For newcomers, visitors, longtime members, and those who are absent from us today. **Root us deeply in your word and increase our faith. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**P** And because you are one with us, O Christ, enable us to share your life with the world by sharing our own lives with the world. And so we pray, in the words you have taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### *The Meal*

## OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** 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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Holy, Holy from Mass of Light - Haas)

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.

It is indeed right and good that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you...And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry! Ho - san-na in the high - est!  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san-na in the  
high - est! Ho - san-na in the high - est!

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE] (from Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks)

**P** Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy. We praise your Son, our Morningstar. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never — today, tomorrow, and every day.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks...

With joy we proclaim our faith:

**We remember his death.**

**We proclaim his resurrection.**

**We await his coming in glory.**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our soul with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

**Alleluia!**

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise: Amen, amen, amen.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

# LAMB OF GOD (Mass of Light)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Bread of Life, you take away the sin of the world;  
gave mercy on us.

Cup of Love, you take away the sin of the world:  
Grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 790 "DAY BY DAY"



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort  
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and  
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me  
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me  
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all  
o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

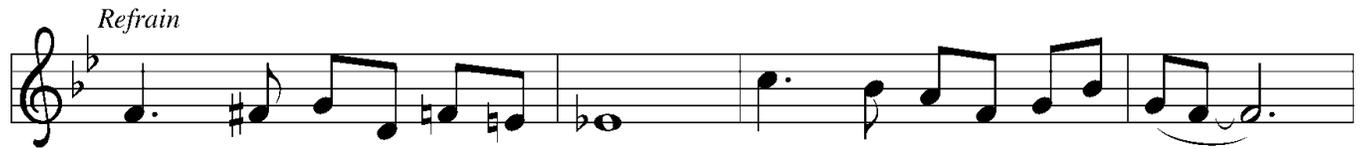


mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,  
of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,  
what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.  
help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.  
with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

## ELW 697 "JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE"



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## PASTORAL BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** We thank you, O God,  
that you have fed us at your banqueting table  
with bread and wine beyond compare,  
the very life of Christ for us.  
**Send your Spirit with us now,**  
**that we may set the captive free,**

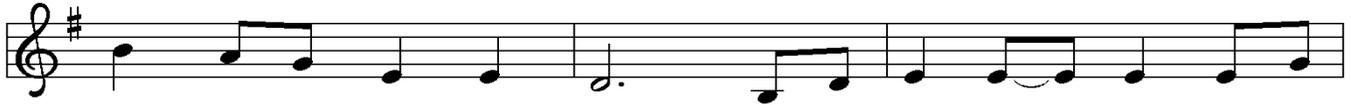
use your gifts to build one another up,  
and in everything reflect your glory  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The Sending*

SENDING HYMN: ELW 723 "CANTICLE OF TURNING" VS. 1 & 2



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

## BENEDICTION

**P** God the Creator who delights in you,  
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,  
and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you,  
✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Christ is your light.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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