



## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

February 23, 2025

### Opening Hymn #27

#### *Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul*

1. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.
  
2. Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!
  
3. 'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
And makes thee young again.
  
4. He crowns thy life with love  
When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell  
Hath sovereign power to save.
  
5. He fills the poor with good;  
He gives the sufferers rest:  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
And justice for th' opprest.

6. His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His beloved Son.

### **Invocation**

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

### **Confession & Absolution**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He

giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

### **Gloria Patri**

C ♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **The Kyrie**

C ♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)**

All glory be to God alone,  
Forevermore the Highest One,  
Who doth our sinful race befriend,  
And grace and peace to us extend.  
Among mankind may His good will  
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

### **The Salutation**

P The Lord be with you.

C ♪ And with thy spirit.

### **The Collect for the Day**

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪ **Amen**

### **The First Lesson – Genesis 45:3-15**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I

am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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 tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

### **Psalm of the Day – Psalm 103**

*Antiphon - I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.*

Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*

**and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!**

Bless the LORD, | O my soul,\*

**and forget not all his | benefits,**

who forgives all your in- | iquity,\*

**who heals all your dis- | eases,**

who redeems your life | from the pit,\*

**who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,**  
who satisfies | you with good\*  
**so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.**  
The LORD works | righteousness\*  
**and justice for all who | are oppressed.**  
He made known his ways to | Moses,\*  
**his acts to the people of | Israel.**  
The LORD is merciful and | gracious,\*  
**slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**  
He will not | always chide,\*  
**nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.**  
He does not deal with us according | to our sins,\*  
**nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.**  
For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,\*  
**so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear**  
**him;**  
as far as the east is | from the west,\*  
**so far does he remove our transgres- | sions from us.**  
As a father shows compassion to his | children,\*  
**so the LORD shows compassion to those who | fear him.**  
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Antiphon – I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.*

### **The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42**

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For

he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. <sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. <sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

### **Verse of the Day – Luke 6:36**

Alleluia. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

### **The Gospel – Luke 6:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so

to them. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

### **Confession of Faith** ***Apostle's Creed***

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Hymn of the Day #34** ***My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker***

1. My soul, now bless thy Maker!

Let all within me bless His name  
Who maketh thee partaker  
Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.  
Forget Him not whose meekness  
Still bears with all thy sin,  
Who healeth all thy weakness,  
Renews thy life within;  
Whose grace and care are endless  
And saved thee through the past;  
Who leaves no sufferer friendless,  
But rights the wronged at last.

2. He shows to man His treasure  
Of judgment, truth, and righteousness,  
His love beyond all measure,  
His yearning pity o'er distress,  
Nor treats us as we merit,  
But lays His anger by,  
The humble, contrite spirit  
Finds His compassion nigh;  
And high as heaven above us,  
As break from close of day,  
So far, since He doth love us,  
He puts our sins away.

3. For as a tender father  
Hath pity on his children here,  
He in His arms will gather  
All who are His in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers  
Who but from dust are made;  
We flourish like the fowers,  
And even so we fade;  
The wind but o'er them passes,



And all their bloom is o'er,-  
We wither like the grasses,  
Our place knows us no more.

4. God's grace alone endureth,  
And children's children yet shall prove  
How He with strength assureth  
The hearts of all that seek His love.  
In heaven is fixed His dwelling,  
His rule is over all;  
Angels, in might excelling,  
Bright hosts, before Him fall.  
Praise Him, who ever reigneth,  
All ye who hear His Word,  
Nor our poor hymns disdaineth-  
My soul, oh, bless the Lord!

**Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42**

**Sermon**

***As the Son of God Is Merciful and Forgives Your Sins, You  
Also Be Merciful and Forgive***

**Offertory**

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Prayer of the Church**

(Congregation may remain seated)

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Preserve and unite Your Church, O Lord. Bring an end to her earthly divisions, which grieve You. Give her the true unity of doctrine and faith in Your Word. Bless and sustain our leaders in our Synod, Conference and this congregation.

**1 May God bestow on us His grace,**

**With blessings rich provide us;  
And may the brightness of His face  
To life eternal guide us, ...**

P: Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy.

**That we His saving health may know,  
His gracious will and pleasure,  
And also to the nations show  
Christ's riches without measure  
And unto God convert them.**

P: Merciful God, give us guidance amid the changes of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and the paralysis of fear. Let us know our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the power of His resurrection with joy, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair.

**2 Thine over all shall be the praise  
And thanks of ev'ry nation;  
And all the world with joy shall raise  
The voice of exultation. ...**

P: Almighty God, Your Son, our Lord, commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute us. We implore You, by Your gracious visitation, lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, be of one accord, and share one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Church.

**For Thou shalt judge the earth, O Lord,  
Nor suffer sin to flourish;  
Thy people's pasture is Thy Word  
Their souls to feed and nourish,  
In righteous paths to keep them.**

P: Righteous Lord, uphold civil authority and those responsible for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them steadfastly to pursue the cause of justice and protect life from beginning to natural end. Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us here or abroad.

**3 O let the people praise Thy worth,  
In all good works increasing;  
The land shall plenteous fruit bring forth,  
Thy Word is rich in blessing. ...**

P: O Lord, Your servant Joseph endured hardship and struggle, yet he believed it would come to good. Give us such tested faith, and bring all things to completion according to Your purposes in Christ, the new Adam, who has brought hope to the world.

**May God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit bless us!  
Let all the world praise Him alone,  
Let solemn awe possess us.  
Now let our hearts say, "Amen!"**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners with no good in us. Our hearts and our flesh and blood are so corrupted by sin that we are never without sinful desires in this life. Therefore, we implore You, forgive us our sins. Let Your Holy Spirit so cleanse our hearts that we would love Your Word, abide by it and, by Your grace, be saved forever; through *\*please stand\** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **The 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.**

### **The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you,  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
C ♪ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn #657** *Beautiful Savior*

1. Beautiful Savior,  
King of Creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,  
Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer,  
Than all the angels in the sky.  
4. Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine!

## **Silent Prayer**

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