



6th Sunday of Epiphany
February 16, 2025

Opening Hymn #206 (v. 1-4)
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

1. Jesus Christ, my sure Defense
And my Savior, ever liveth;
Knowing this, my confidence
Rests upon the hope it giveth
Though the night of death be fraught
Still with many an anxious thought.
2. Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;
I, too, unto life shall waken.
Endless joy my Savior gives;
Shall my courage, then, be shaken?
Shall I fear, or could the Head
Rise and leave His members dead?
3. Nay, too closely am I bound
Unto Him by hope forever;
Faith's strong hand the Rock hath found,
Grasped it, and will leave it never;
Even death now cannot part
From its Lord the trusting heart.
4. I am flesh and must return
Unto dust, whence I am taken;
But by faith I now discern
That from death I shall awaken

With my Savior to abide
In His glory, at His side.

Invocation

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

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.

O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Jeremiah 17:5-8

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.

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 1

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

1. Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,*
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of |
scoffers;
2. but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.
3. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in
its season, and its leaf does not | wither.*

In all that he does, he | prospers.

4. The wicked | are not so,*

but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

5. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,*

nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous;

6. for the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*

but the way of the wicked will | perish.

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 15:12-20

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 this life only we have hoped in Christ, 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.

Verse of the Day – Luke 6:23a

Alleluia. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

The Gospel – Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷[Jesus] 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, ¹⁸who 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: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
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 #134

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem,
In Thy birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to Thee addressed
God in man made manifest.

2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding-guest,
In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine,
Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to Thee addressed

God in man made manifest.

3. Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to Thee addressed,
God in man made manifest.

4. Sun and moon shall darkened be,
Stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine,
All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear,
All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed,
God in man made manifest.

5. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,
Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now
And be pure as pure art Thou
That we like to Thee may be
At Thy great Epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest,
God in man made manifest.

Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Sermon

Christians Live by Faith in Christ and Rejoice in the Promise of His Resurrection

Offertory – sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

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: Heavenly Father, Your kingdom has been made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ. Gather together a great multitude from every Gentile nation and from Judea's remnant, that many may know Wisdom come in our flesh.

¹ Jesus sat with His disciples

On a mountain-side one day;

As the crowds of people gathered,

He began to teach and say: ...

P: Merciful God, hear our prayer for those who are troubled by any unclean spirit, memory or thought; for the sick; and for all who need Your healing [*especially* _____]. Send forth Your power in the name of Christ Jesus, that they would hear Your Word and be cured.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit.

Heaven's kingdom they will share.

Blessed are the sad and mourning,

Joy and comfort will be theirs.

P: Lord God, You bestow favor and honor and withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. Bless parents and those who teach children Your ways, that generations to come would love Your promises, walk in Your truth and dwell in Your house.

². **“Blessed are the meek and humble,
All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy,
They are bless’d and will be filled. ...**

P: Grant, O Lord, that Your people may always hold fast to the Word that has been preached to them and not believe it in vain.
**Yes, the merciful are blessed,
Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessed,
They have eyes for God alone.**

P: O Lord, preserve us from the ways of the wicked, and prosper us in Your paths. We commend to You all who bear office in our land and ask You to make them a blessing to those they serve. Grant to us every joy in the calling You have given to us, that we would render service to You in our works of love toward our neighbor. Remember those in need of honest labor and daily bread, and give them gainful employment according to Your good and gracious will.

³. **“Blessed are God’s sons and daughters,
Making peace where there is strife.
Blessed are the persecuted,
Who for righteousness lose life; ...**

P: O Lord, Your Son is risen from the dead and has promised that He is the firstfruits from among those who sleep. Preserve us in Christ Jesus with hope beyond this life. Comfort those who mourn [*especially* _____] with the certainty of Christ’s resurrection, and grant us to live in confident expectation.

**Their reward is great in heaven,
In the kingdom up above-
So be glad to share My suff'ring
And rejoice to know My love."**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, plant us as trees by the stream of Christ, our Savior. Root us securely in His Word and wisdom. Do not let us turn from You, nor put our trust in man and this flesh, which fail. Preserve us from all anxiety, and take our fears away through a right fear of You. Cause us, by Your Holy Spirit, to bear much fruit and, when affliction and persecution come, to stand firm and rejoice at the great reward that is laid up for those who trust in You; through the same ****please stand**** Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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

Closing Hymn #206 (v. 7-10)
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

7. They who sorrow here and moan
There in gladness shall be reigning;
Earthly here the seed is sown,
There immortal life attaining.
Here our sinful bodies die,
Glorified to dwell on high.

8. Then take comfort and rejoice,
For His members Christ will cherish.
Fear not, they will hear His voice;
Dying, they shall never perish;
For the very grave is stirred
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

9. Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave
And at death no longer tremble;
He, the Lord, who came to save
Will at last His own assemble.
They will go their Lord to meet,
Treading death beneath their feet.

10. Oh, then, draw away your hearts
Now from pleasures base and hollow.
There to share what He imparts,
Here His footsteps ye must follow.
Fix your hearts beyond the skies,
Whether ye yourselves would rise.

Silent Prayer

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