

A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:30 AND 11:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

INTRODUCTION

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 offers power to heal us all.

PRELUDE

"PRAISE THE LORD"

Berry

JEAN PONTIOUS

"BE HERE NOW"

PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Praise the Lord, The Heaven's Adore Him" Vss. 1 & 2 LBW # 540



1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



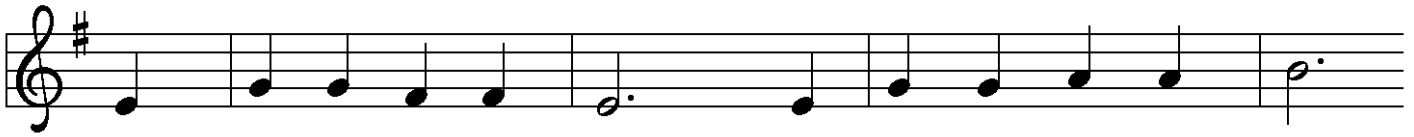
laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!



GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **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.**

Sit

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings 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.

After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

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

A 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!

C ²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

A 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.

C ⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

A ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

C ⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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 not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for 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 first fruits of those who have died.

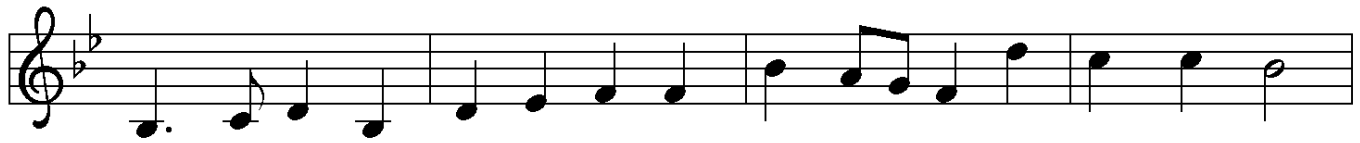
After the reading:

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 6th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at 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 will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

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."

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Deacon Nick Bates

2 Kings 2:23-25

He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!" When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. From there he went on to Mount Carmel and then returned to Samaria.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"BLESSED ASSURANCE"

8:30 SERVICE

KEVEREN

JEAN PONTIOUS

"I SEE YOU"

11:00 SERVICE Tomlin/Lake

PRAISE AND WORSHIP BAND

**TO SUPPORT ADVENT'S MINISTRIES
POINT CAMERA HERE**



APOSTLES' CREED

A *Christians, what do we believe?*

**C 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 into hell.

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 OF INTERCESSION

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to
proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and
resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful
practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its
restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the
hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of
grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C Amen.

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 him thanks and praise.

P 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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 and might,



heav'n 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to the Lord's Table – Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are worshipping with us.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *The communicant may say: **Amen***

This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.

Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.

After receiving the elements, you may return to your seats.

Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets provided on the first row of chairs.

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

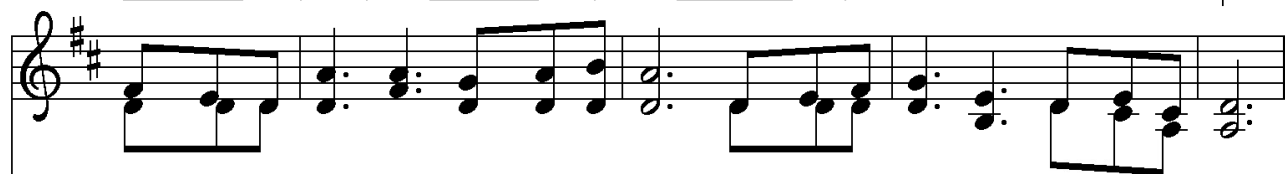
SENDING HYMN

“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

VSS. 1 & 3 WOV # 699



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



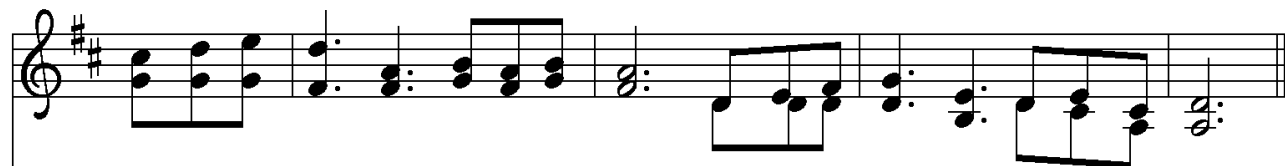
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – February 16

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTE		HADLEY SAMUEL
ASSISTING MINISTER	JANE PRAUSE	BETH PITTMAN
	DEACON NICK BATES	

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

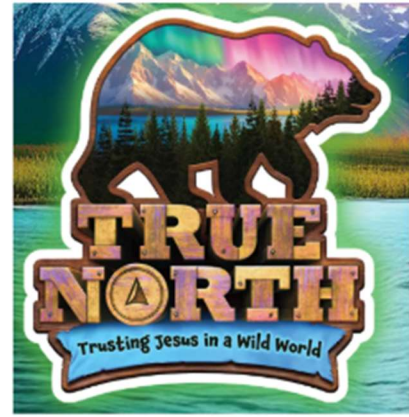
Please check the 2025 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is \$25.00 per vase.



VBS Volunteer Meeting – Sunday, March 9th

Join us for a meeting following the 11:00 a.m. service (approximately 12:15 p.m.) to learn more about this year's Vacation Bible School! Pizza will be provided. Middle and high school students interested in volunteering during VBS (June 23-27, 9-11 a.m.) are encouraged to attend. All attendees will be entered into a drawing to win a VBS-themed blanket!

Come excited to soar into this year's adventure!





49TH ANNUAL LMC MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

**MARCH
9TH**



**11AM
TO 3PM**

Pancakes | Syrup Demos | Live Music

Lutheran Memorial Camp At HopeWood Pines

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT "CAMPERSHIPS"
- HELP SEND A CHILD TO CAMP! -