

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 13, 2022

Come unto Me, Ye Weary Lutheran Service Book 684, Lutheran Worship 345, The Lutheran Hymnal 376



- 1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
- 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
- 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
- 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer-ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

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L In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

L Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

C Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

L If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. (*Psalm 130:3-4*)

L Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

C **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

(Luke 18:13)

L Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Introit Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon Psalm 119:7

L I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

C **Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!**

L Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,

C **You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**

L Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

L O Christ, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

L O Lord, **C** **Have Mercy on us.**

Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:

C **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

L Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.

C **For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G** Amen.

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.”

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- G** Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- L** Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
- G** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
- L** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
- G** bring an offering, and come into his courts!

Psalm 1

- L** ¹Blessèd 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;
- G** ²but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- L** ³He 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.
- G** ⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- L** ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- G** ⁶for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

L Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.

C Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Luke 6:17–26

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

C 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 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.

From thence 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.

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise Lutheran Service Book 394, Lutheran Worship 88, The Lutheran Hymnal 134



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
2 Man - i - fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak-ing whole Pal - sied limbs and faint - ing soul;
4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres - ent in Thy ho - ly Word—



Man - i - fest-ed by the star To the sa - ges from a - far,
And at Ca - na wed-ding guest In Thy God-head man - i - fest;
Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
Christ will then like light - ning shine, All will see His glo-rious sign;
Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, Chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
Man - i - fest in gra-cious will, Ev - er bring-ing good from ill;
All will then the trum - pet hear, All will see the Judge ap - pear;
That we might be-come like Thee At Thy great e - piph - a - ny



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.
And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

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Devotional Thoughts:

My childhood home was a cross between “Leave it to Beaver” and “The Waltons.” Maybe that’s why these were two of my mother’s favorite shows.

We weren’t as affluent as the Cleavers and we weren’t as impoverished as the Waltons. But we did share our evening dinner together almost every night. Mom would prepare a meal that would be ready shortly after dad returned home following his 10-hour workday. (I might add that his commute was a half hour and he worked 5 hours on Saturday for a 55-hour workweek to support our family.)

Eating with the family at suppertime was never optional. I remember that most of our dinner conversations were very much like those of our television counterparts. Work, school, and church were regular topics.

Our Gospel lesson for this week reminded me of one dinner discussion that I will never forget. It happened on the evening following my first day of high school.

Until that day, I had only one teacher in my classroom but now I was changing classes every hour and experienced a different teacher in each room. As we passed the potatoes and gravy, my father asked, “How was school? Do you like your teachers?”

In response, I boldly gave my assessment. I reported that I liked this teacher, that teacher, and another. I also listed those that I did not like.

My dad then gave me his words of wisdom that I have never forgotten. He said, “You better be careful. Sometimes first impressions can be misleading and turn out to be just the opposite of what you first thought.”

I remember that conversation because it wasn’t long before my assessment was turned on its head. Just a few weeks into the school year, my lists were totally reversed. It turned out that the teachers I thought I liked were now the ones that I didn’t care for. While the ones that I gave a negative assessment to, turned out to be my favorites. Since that day, I have learned to be cautious with first impressions. I try to withhold judgment when meeting new people until they have proven themselves to me. This bit of wisdom served me well in more than 40 years of active ministry.

This incident came to mind while reading the Gospel lesson because, in it, Jesus evaluates life in a way that is totally contrary to my human judgment. By the world’s way of thinking, the rich, those with full bellies, and those who laugh are blessed. Almost everything we do in life is done in pursuit of these goals. Yet, Jesus says to those individuals, “Woe!”

In contrast, Jesus says that those who are poor, hungry, and weep are the ones who are “Blessed!” Who would have guessed?

So what’s the missing ingredient that turns our worldly thinking upside down? How is it that our human evaluation can be so contradictory to Jesus’ words? The unseen factor that changes everything is God’s love for us in Christ!

The real difference between the blessed and those who experience woe is their relationship to God. Those who trust in Jesus for salvation and believe God’s promises are the truly blessed. They may be hated now by the worldly but great is their reward in heaven. The worldly may receive accolades now. They may be praised by the godless even as false prophets have always been praised. But this momentary glory turns out to be nothing in the end.

Jeremiah explains it this way, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:5). “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD” (Jeremiah 17:7).

Jesus’ cross is the perfect example of how God works through opposites. The cross appears to the world as the ultimate defeat of Jesus. The soldiers placed a crown of thorns on His head and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Then they spat upon Him (Matthew 27:29-31). Those who passed by the cross derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:39-40). The chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way (Matthew 27:41-44).

But in the “woe” of the cross, we receive God’s ultimate blessings. In the sacrifice that Jesus offered there, we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation!

But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.

He's Risen, He's Risen, stanza 3, C. F. W. Walther

The truly blessed evaluate life from the perspective of eternity, not the first day of high school! In God’s economy, things aren’t always the way that they first appear to our human way of thinking. The cross led to the empty tomb!

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

“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! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven!

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

God’s richest blessings to you in Christ.

L Heavenly Father, Your kingdom has been made manifest in the preaching and miracles of Jesus Christ. Gather together Your great multitude from every nation that many may know the Son of God come in our flesh.

C Amen.

L Grant, O Lord, that Your people may always hold fast to Your Word.

C Amen.

L Preserve our families and all godly homes. Give parents diligence and persistence in their duties to teach the faith in word and by example. Keep our children in the promise You made to them in Baptism. Let the patience, kindness, and endurance of Christian love have no end among us.

C Amen.

L Almighty God, send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. We thank You for the protection granted to all who have attended to our needs during this pandemic. Thank You that the recent surge of infections in our nation has begun to decline. Continue to strengthen all those who serve us in the medical field. Give Your comfort and peace to all who are suffering from this illness or others. Be with those who mourn the death of those who are dear. Grant to them the hope and assurance of a blessed reunion in heaven.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Almighty Father, Bless the Word Lutheran Service Book 923, Lutheran Worship 216, The Lutheran Hymnal 52

1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all

grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye

seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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Enhancing Your Worship

Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27
My eyes are awake through the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 14 – February 19, 2022

Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you meditate on what God has done for you.

Monday – Valentine's Day

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Introit Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon Psalm 119:7

- L** I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.
- C** **Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!**
- L** Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- C** **You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**
- L** Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

Kyrie

L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

Happy Saint Valentine's Day!

Believe it or not, Valentine's Day is an official day of commemoration in the Church Calendar of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. February 14 is designated for the commemoration of Valentine, Martyr. The LCMS website includes this biography of Saint Valentine:

A physician and priest living in Rome during the rule of the Emperor Claudius, Valentine become one of the noted martyrs of the third century. The commemoration of his death, which occurred in the year 270, became part of the calendar of remembrance in the early church of the West. Tradition suggests that on the day of his execution for his Christian faith, he left a note of encouragement for a child of his jailer written on an irregularly-shaped piece of paper. This greeting became a pattern for millions of written expressions of love and caring that now are the highlight of Valentine's Day in many nations.

No one can blame you if you weren't aware of St. Valentine's martyrdom. Very few people still refer to today as Saint Valentine's Day. Sometime in the 14th or 15th century, his day became associated with romantic love. No one is sure exactly why this happened although there are a number of theories.

His day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the varieties of love that we experience. The greatest and deepest love that we experience in life is the love that God has for us in Christ. This is the self-sacrificing love that Jesus had for us when He gave Himself for us on the cross. It is a love that we do not deserve. It is expressed in the words of Romans 5:8, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Believe it or not, this is the love that God expects us to have in marriage. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25).

Every other kind of love is secondary to this self-sacrificing love. You may or may not fall into and out of romantic love. But this love is not romantic love. It is the action of the will. You cannot fall into or out of it. It is the love of determination and commitment, no matter what may come.

God never stops loving us even when we stop loving Him and reject His love! It is unfortunate that some contemporary Christians speak of "falling in love" with God. We do not have a romantic relationship with God. He's not our boyfriend or girlfriend!

St. Valentine knew God's love for him in Christ. He was so determined to return God's love that he refused to deny God even though it meant his martyrdom.

If Valentine's Day is a celebration of that kind of love, may it long flourish! May God grant us this same self-sacrificing love in our marriages and families.

Let us pray: Lord God, our heavenly Father, thank You for so loving the world that You gave Your only-begotten Son. Grant that we may also love You with our whole hearts and our neighbors as ourselves through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Kyrie

- L** O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Christ, **C** Have Mercy on us.
L O Lord, **C** Have Mercy on us.

- L** Let us pray: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

As in most homes, our kitchen has upper and lower cabinets for food, dishes, and appliances of every kind. I am the perfect height to hit my head on any upper cabinet door that has been left open. I don't know if this has happened to you but when it happens to me, I am thoroughly convinced that the door is at fault. It takes all my effort to resist slamming the door to punish it for the pain it has caused me.

That's human nature. I am never to blame for the pain and suffering that I endure. I am convinced that it is caused by someone or something else.

Certainly, some of my problems come from outside of myself. I live in a sinful world and I suffer from the sins of others. Nevertheless, most of my problems are of my own making. It hurts to admit it but I have left too many cupboard doors open. ;-) In other words, I justly suffer the consequences of my own sin.

There is only one person in all of history that never suffered the consequences of His own sin. Jesus never sinned. All of His suffering came as the result of the sins of others. His death on the cross was the consequence of our sins and the sins of the world. Yet being sinless, He paid for our sins.

He suffered so that we would have mercy. Through faith in Him, we are delivered from the ultimate consequence of sin. Instead of death, we receive life. Instead of God's wrath, we are adopted into His family to live in His eternal mansions forever!

Let us pray: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Psalm 1

- L** ¹Blessèd 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;
- C** ²**but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**
- L** ³He 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.
- C** ⁴**The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**
- L** ⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
- C** ⁶**for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

You may have noticed that Jesus begins the Sermon on the Plain and the Sermon on the Mount in the same way. What you may not have noticed is that Jesus was following the example of the Psalms. All three begin with the same word: Blessed!

If you look at Jesus' sermon carefully, you will also notice that He used the outline of Psalm 1. Psalm 1 shows us the distinction between the "Blessed" and the "Wicked." Jesus elaborates on this distinction in our Gospel lesson for this week.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word translated as "blessed" has the first meaning of happy! Most of us are looking for happiness in our lives but many people are looking in the wrong places.

If you were to spend much time with me while I am watching television, you would quickly learn how distressed I am by the advertising of sports betting apps. The main purpose of these commercials is to show you how happy you will be when you wager and win using their apps. These commercials are deceptive on two levels. Statistically, we know that for every winner, there must be a loser. Second, how sad it is to see people willing to seek happiness at the expense of others.

Psalm 1 gives us the corrective. Happiness does not come from hurting others. Happiness does not come by walking, standing, or sitting in the way sinful people want us to. Real happiness comes from delighting in God's word. Real happiness comes from helping others.

In contrast, despite all of the deception of worldly propaganda, the wicked do not prosper. They are like chaff that the wind drives away. In the end, they perish. Jesus makes this clear when He explains that the ultimate blessing of the faithful is found in the great reward of heaven.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the happiness that You give to us in Jesus. Grant us the grace to delight in Your word and will. Move us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world that You have called us to be as we await the day when we will join You in the mansions of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
- C** Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Kyrie

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Christ, | C | Have Mercy on us. |
| L | O Lord, | C | Have Mercy on us. |

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.”

“*Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres*” is the famous beginning of Julius Caesar’s *The Gallic Wars*. It is a well-known phrase even among non-Latin students. In translation, it reads, “All Gaul is divided into three parts.”

This comes to mind because of our lessons for this week. Jesus’ Sermon on the Plain, Psalm 1, and Jeremiah 17:5–8 each follow this theme: “All humanity is divided into two parts: The Blessed and the Cursed.

Jeremiah 17:5 teaches us, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man.” To these people, Jesus says, “Woe.” The Psalmist calls them wicked.

On the other hand, Jeremiah 17:7 tells us, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD.” Jesus explains that these are the ones who receive the Kingdom of God. God satisfies their needs. They shall not want. God turns their sorrow into laughter.

Another way to say this is, “All of humanity is on one of two paths.” One is the path of life. The other is the path of death.

Jesus is the path of life. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In Him is Light and this Light is the Life of humanity.

Sinfulness is the path of death. It is the path of darkness. It is the way of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh.

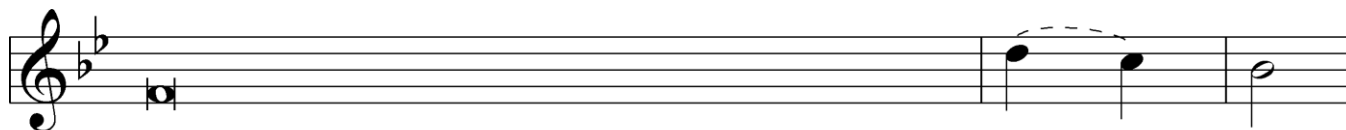
We thank God that He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. We thank God that He has taken us off the path of death and put us on the path of life. We thank God that through faith in Jesus we are now counted among the Blessed. Our sins are forgiven. Heaven is our home.

Peter puts it this way:

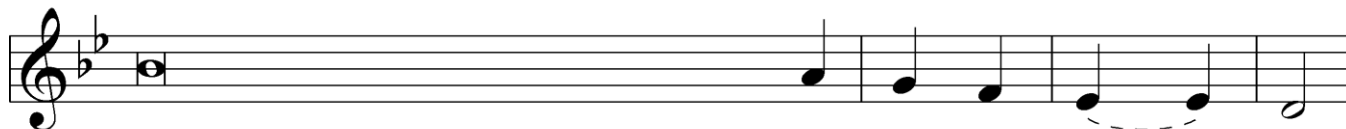
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Prayer: We therefore pray You to help Your servants, whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood. Make them to be numbered with Your saints in glory everlasting. Amen. (Taken from the Te Deum. You may wish to pray the entire Te Deum. It follows.)

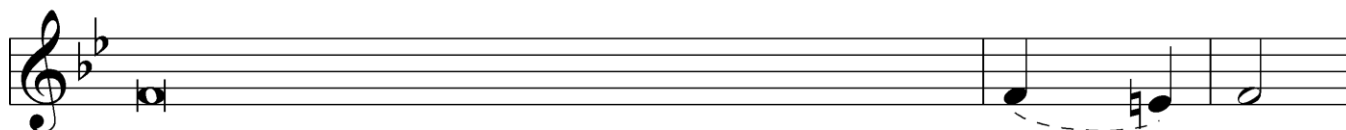
Te Deum



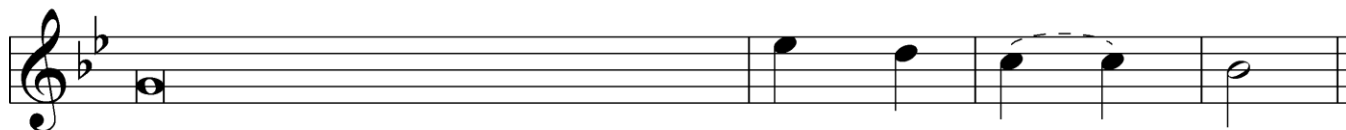
- 1** We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
3 The noble army of martyrs praise—— You.



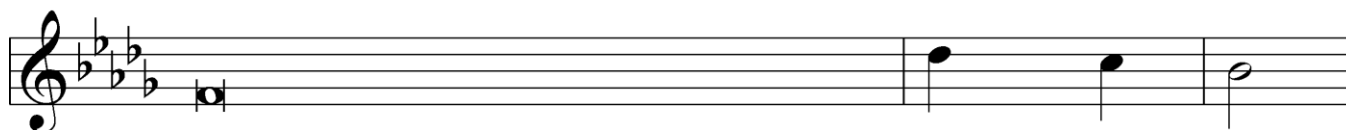
- 1** All the earth now worships You, the Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing.
2 heaven and earth are full of the majes - ty of Your glo - ry.
3 The holy Church throughout all the world does ac - knowl-edge You:



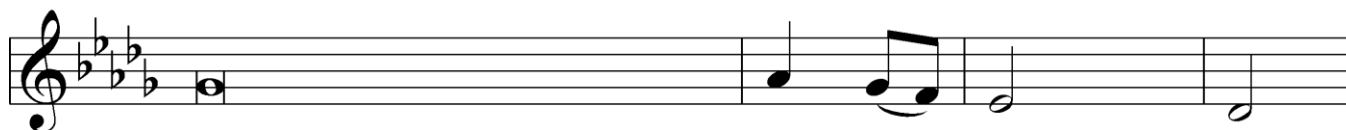
- 1** To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the pow'rs there-in.
2 The glorious company of the apostles praise—— You.
3 The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and on - ly Son;
4 You are the king of glory, O—— Christ;



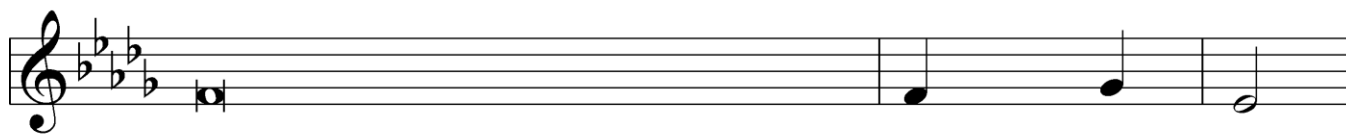
- 1** To You cherubim and seraphim con - tin - ual - ly do cry:
2 The goodly fellowship of the proph-ets praise—— You.
3 also the Holy Ghost, the Com-fort - er.
4 You are the everlasting Son of the Fa - ther.



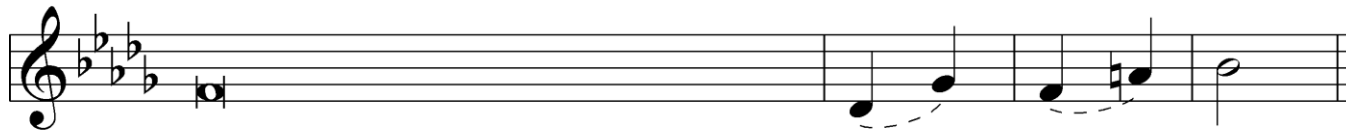
- 5** When You took upon Yourself to de - liv - er man,
6 You sit at the right hand of God



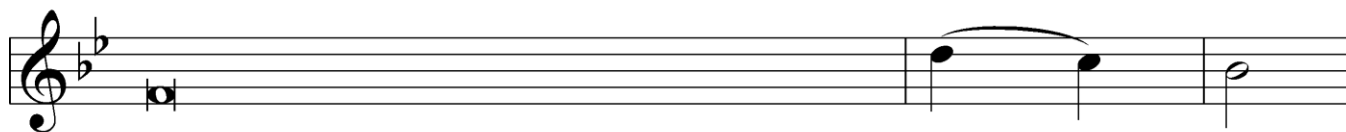
- 5** You humbled Yourself to be born of a vir - gin.
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



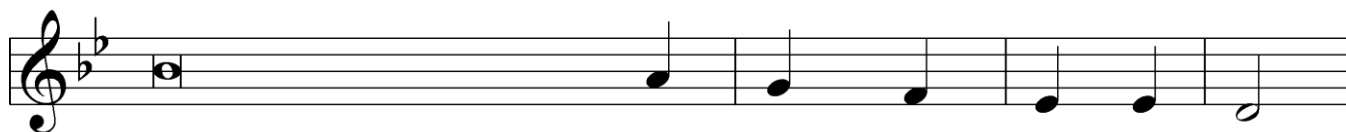
5 When You had overcome the sharpness of death,
6 We believe that You will come



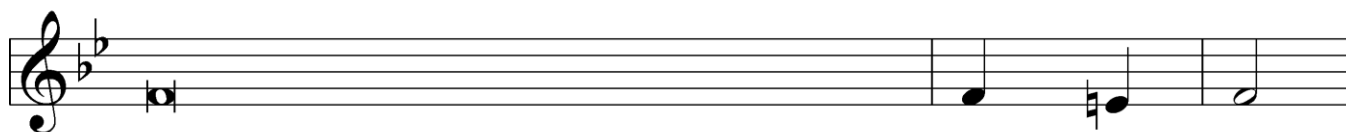
5 You opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.
6 to be our judge.



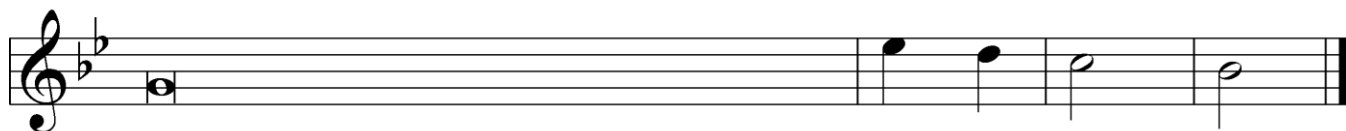
7 We therefore pray You to help Your ser - vants,



7 whom You have redeem - ed with Your pre - cious blood.



7 Make them to be numbered with Your saints



7 in glory ev - er - last - ing.

Friday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
C Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Kyrie

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

¹Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

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.

1 Corinthians 15 is the great Resurrection Chapter of the Bible. It is a perfect example of how controversy can lead to a blessing. The Apostle Paul rightly tells us that the resurrection of the dead is essential to the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of the dead, Christianity would be nothing. But we would not have his clear teaching about the resurrection if it hadn't been a point of controversy in the Corinthian church. Some people were denying the resurrection and Paul knew that he had to counter their false doctrine as forcefully as possible.

You may have heard this old saw, “All religions are basically the same.” It seems that even the most educated people repeat this unchristian adage. By it, I assume that they are trying to say that all religions teach basic morality. There may be some truth to this since God has written His law into the hearts of all mankind in the form of a conscience. However, Christianity is not primarily about teaching right and wrong. Christianity is about Jesus coming into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life. It's about the forgiveness of sins. It's about being rescued from sin, death, and the devil.

The Christian faith does expect people to live holy and righteous lives. It takes tremendous discipline to resist sin and seek God's will for our lives. But if this is all there is, Christianity is a waste of time. Paul puts it this way in verse 19, “If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

Never be deceived into believing that Christianity is just another religion. It is the only faith that teaches, “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the gift of eternal life and the promise of the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Grant us faith to put our trust in Jesus knowing that in the cross, He overcame sin, death, and the devil through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Introit Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon Psalm 119:7

- L** I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.
C **Blessèd are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!**
L Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
C **You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.**
L Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
L I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your just and righteous decrees.

Gradual Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8

- L** Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
C **For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.**
L Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
C **bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Verse of the Day: Luke 6:23a

- L** Alleluia, Alleluia, Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; Alleluia.
C **Alleluia, Alleluia, For behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.**

Kyrie

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Christ, | C Have Mercy on us. |
| L O Lord, | C Have Mercy on us. |

Since Monday was Valentine's Day, we didn't look at the introit as is my custom for Mondays. So let's take it up today.

Our introit follows (or establishes) the theme of the day by giving the real solution to this age-old riddle, "Who are the blessed?" Just as Psalm 1, Psalm 119 begins with the word, "Blessed," but it continues by restating the word at the beginning of the second verse, too!

¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

Did you notice that these verses don't claim, "Blessed are those who win gold medals"? As you can guess, I've been watching the Olympics all week. It is wonderful to be physically accomplished and mentally strong. But contrary to popular belief, life is more than sports.

Through the years, I have thought it to be sad that gifted athletes are sometimes held to a lower standard of morality and conduct because of what they can do for the team. Coaches have been known to turn a blind eye to infractions committed by star players because of an unwholesome desire to win. On occasion, I have witnessed young athletes come to a tragic end because they were never held accountable for their actions.

True blessings come from being faithful to God and His word. True blessings come from seeking the Lord with our whole hearts. How wonderful it would be if we taught young people to be as dedicated to God as they are to sports. Alas, it will never be.

But there is something more important here that we should be careful not to miss. Psalm 119 begins with these words, “Blessed are those whose way is blameless.” Read them again. Then answer this question, “Are you blameless?” None of us are! If this is the case, then none of us can be blessed!

But there is a way to be blameless. It comes through Jesus. He is the one who was blameless for us. Our sins, our failures, our false priorities are all placed upon His shoulders. He paid for our moral bankruptcy on the cross. In turn, through faith in Him, we receive His blamelessness. In Him, we are truly and completely blessed. We may never win a gold medal but we have been given the crown of life.

Prayer: O Lord, thank You for the blamelessness and blessings that are ours in Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may walk according to Your law and keep Your commandments. Move us to seek You with our whole hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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