



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025, 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Stephen C. Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Verset” by Abraham van den Kerckhoven Eric Dickey

WE REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, 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 loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, so that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

“All Creatures, Worship God Most High”
VS 3 High Voices, VS 4 Low Voices

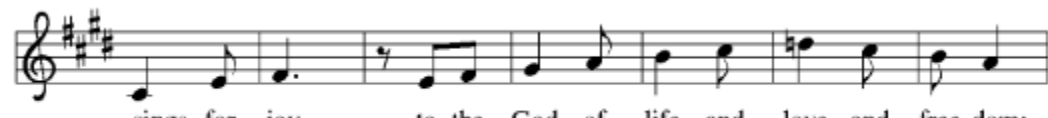
ELW 835

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.**



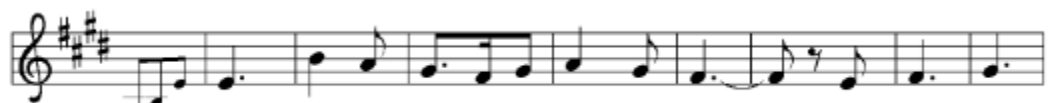
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



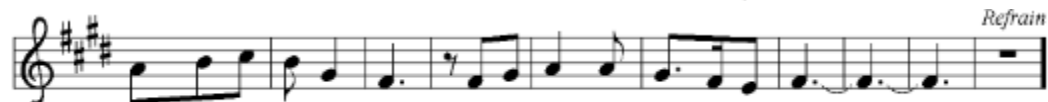
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O

divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
P Amen.

Childrens Sermon

Anthem (10:00 a.m.)

“Firm Foundation”

Emily Pollock

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ 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.

⁹ 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 delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that, his brothers talked with him.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving

spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.

⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L The Word of the Lord **C** **Thanks be to God!**

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to.... **C** **Glory to you, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be

condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C** Praise to you, O Christ!

Presentation

Michael George, Executive Director, Genacross

Hymn

“Build A Longer Table”

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and 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.

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

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

A brief silence.

AM Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care; **Tom Jennings, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Frank O’Konski, Larry Geer, Luke Holtz, Susie Donnal, Ron Hetherwick, Martina Benton, Jake Cope, Debbie Carman, Paula Gruhler, Lisa Boltz, Eric Lewis, Phillip Hart, Staci, Carolyn, Suzette, Steve Asmus, Cory Kaczor....** and all those we remember in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

AM We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us especially, **Lyle Hecklinger.** May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A “gluten-free” host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** **And also with you!**

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

The congregation continues to stand during Tithes and Offerings if you are able.

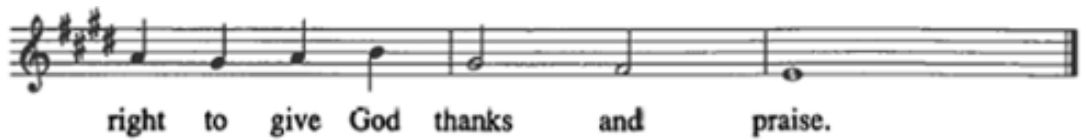
Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar, or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff is for the Presider and the Congregation. The second and third staves are for the Presider. The fourth staff is for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical notation for the 'HOLY' section consists of five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a common time signature. The second staff has a 3/8 time signature. The third staff has a 6/8 time signature. The fourth and fifth staves return to a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Words of Institution

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. Jesus said, 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. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P 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.

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn

“I Come with Joy”

ELW 482

“Bread of Life From Heaven”

ELW 474

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM 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, **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“O Day of Peace”

ELW 711

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Making Jesus Known”



Welcome to Community of Christ! Our family welcomes you to the house of the Lord today! We ask God to bless His Holy Word and Sacrament today so that his people might receive strength for living out our days! If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider Community of Christ!

We WELCOME YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

When God Breaks the Rules: A Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

We often picture God as the Giver of Rules and the Maker of Laws (including, obviously, the ones literally written in stone like the Ten Commandments). But what about the times in the Bible when God does a new thing, moves in a new direction, or expands the old order of the world? What about when God *breaks* the rules? This is what we are looking at in our Thursday afternoon Bible Study series. Join us for our

new original ten-part study that Pastor Steve is calling *When God Breaks the Rules*. We are learning about how God overturned the customs and traditions of the day from the earliest stories in our Bible to times when Jesus broke with the inherited traditions of the Respectable Religious Teachers of his day, to the movement of the New Testament era church as the Spirit led the first Christians across lines and borders to the ends of the earth with Jesus' love. Join us this Thursday at **1:00 p.m.** in the council room for our journey in the expansive, surprising, and often rebellious ways of God! All are welcome!

Walking the Jesus Way: Lessons from the Didache

It's not just about hearing Bible verses on Sunday only to have them go in one ear and out the other, but about a way of life—a life shaped in Jesus' likeness. So, what could it look like to live the Jesus way of life today? And what wisdom can we gather from the early disciple community? That's what our Sunday Adult Forum will be exploring in our next series, **beginning today, Feb. 23**, and running through March and into April, that we're calling, "Walking the Jesus Way." This series will make use of an ancient document that goes back to the late first century or the early second, a writing called "The Didache," which means "The Teaching [of the Apostles]." It may well be as old as some of the later books of the New Testament itself, and it gives a glimpse not only of the early church's life and witness but also offers a pattern for our own lives walking in the Jesus way. This Lent, as we focus especially on rededicating and recentering our lives on the way of Jesus, this series will be a great chance both to learn some ancient church history and to connect to present-day life application. We hope you'll join us on Sunday mornings in the fellowship hall from 9:00-9:50 a.m. for this series starting February 23 and leading up to Holy Week in April, as together we *walk the Jesus way!*

Fellowship Invites you to participate in our 1st Community of Christ Chili Cook-Off TODAY! Sunday, February 23rd, right here after service. Please join us for sampling and judging! All are welcome to taste and vote for our C of C Chili Cook-Off winner.

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study will begin March 4th @ 8:30 am. We will be doing a Kristi McLelland study "The Gospel on the Ground"- Christ has ascended- now what? We will learn how the remaining disciples chose a new member to replace Judas and then became organized to begin spreading the Gospel without Christ present. This is a 7-week study, and you will need to order the study guide before class. Please sign up at the kiosk. If you have any questions, please call Becky King @ 419-349-7319. Bring a friend!!

Fellowship Adult Dinners for 8, March 15th: Please join us for a fun night of dinners for 8. These dinners are a great way to meet people or possibly get to know more

about your fellow church members. You think you know people then you find out the person you've been sitting next to at church every week works in the Empire State Building! Sign up at the kiosk and let us know if you would like to host. The committee will let you know which home you're going to, and the hosts will call you with the time and menu and ask you what you would like to bring.

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Suppers beginning on **Wednesday, March 5**. We invite you to start the season of Lent with a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship. The Ash Wednesday service, at 7:00 p.m., will offer time for prayer, communion, and the imposition of ashes, marking the beginning of this sacred season. Before the service, we will gather for a warm and inviting Soup Supper starting at 5:30 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect as we journey together through Lent. Please sign up at the kiosk to let us know what you can bring. We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

Community of Christ will be hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, March 7, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We invite you to give the gift of life by donating blood and helping those in need. Every donation can make a difference in someone's life, and your support is deeply appreciated. Please consider setting aside some time to donate. Together, we can help save lives in our community. We hope to see you there!



Altar
Flowers
Ministry Opportunity

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Vince and Laurie Mauro! ❤️❤️

This Week

Chili Cookoff
Sunday, February 23 after the 10:00 service
Confirmation Class @ CoC – Burning of the Palms for Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 23, 12:30 p.m.
Choir Practice
Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.
Outreach
Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
Thursday, February 27, 1:00 p.m.
Bell Choir
Thursday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.