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# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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February 23-24, 2019

## AS WE GATHER

In these Sundays after the Epiphany, we have observed many of the miracles of our Lord, who came to save us in body and soul. We give thanks for His many gifts of life and health and daily bread, but especially for our new birth in Holy Baptism—the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of eternal life. Today we are reminded that because we have received such great, generous, and life-giving blessings from God, we now are enabled to give and share the love of God with others who need God’s blessings.

**HYMN** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*LSB 790*

## *Stand* **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,**

**renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As an ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

*Ps. 37:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 37:7a, b*

**P** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

**C** **Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
be not envious of wrongdoers!**

**P** For they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.

**C** **Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

**P** Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**C** **Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.**

**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.**

**P** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

KYRIE 

*LSB 152*

**P** *In peace let us pray to the Lord.*

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** *For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.*

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *This Is the Feast* 🎵

LSB 155

**C** This is the feast of victory for our God.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Power, riches, wisdom and strength,  
and honor, blessing, and glory are His.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation.*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God  
and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

*For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.*

*This is the feast of victory for our God.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

#### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit* **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 45:3–15

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

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

[Sunday] **ADULT CHOIR**

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand **ALLELUIA AND VERSE** 

LSB 156

**C** *Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

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

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

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit* **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN**                      *If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death*                      *LSB 486*

**SERMON**                      *"Christ the Firstfruits"*      1 Corinthians 15:21-23

*Stand* [Saturday] **NICENE CREED**

**C** **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

**[Sunday] APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy 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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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

**P** We pray, Lord, with Joseph of old, who endured hardship and struggle and yet believed it would come to good. Bring all things to completion according to Your wisdom and purpose in Him who as the new Adam has brought hope to a world in sin and death, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray, Lord, for guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and from the paralysis of fear. Help us to know with joy our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray, Lord, for Your Church; for an end to the earthly divisions that grieve You; for the true unity of doctrine and faith in Your Word; and for those who lead us in the Synod, the district, the circuit and this congregation. Guide us with Your Spirit as we continue the process of Calling a Pastor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** We pray, Lord, for the civil authority and for those responsible to You for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them to pursue faithfully the cause of justice and to protect and

defend life from its natural beginning to its natural end. Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us both here and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We pray, Lord, for Your comfort upon all who suffer. Deliver the sick according to Your will, and sustain those troubled in body or soul by Your grace. Especially do we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and those we name in our hearts. Be with the dying and grant them peace at the last, and give Your comfort to those who grieve. Give to all patience and courage, that they may endure these times of trial with hope in their hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We pray, Lord, for Your love to have its way with us. Lead us to expect no reward, and teach us from Your own example not to act from self-interest but to love even our enemies and to serve those in need. End all bitterness and strife, and let Your forgiveness cover us in our lives together as You cover us with the blood of Christ before Your heavenly throne. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We pray, Lord, to grant us these and all things good and wholesome and profitable to our salvation, through the merits and mercies of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in union with You and the Holy Spirit, the one eternal God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit* OFFERING

*Stand* OFFERTORY 

*LSB 159*

**C** *What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation  
and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now  
in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

*LSB 160*

**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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

*LSB 161*

**C** *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna. Hosanna.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and

Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*LSB 162*

**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.**

*Sunday's service continues with the Benediction*

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*LSB 162*

**PAX DOMINI**

*LSB 163*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**AGNUS DEI** 

*LSB 163*

**C** *Lamb of God, You take away the  
sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, You take away the  
sin of the world; have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, You take away the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.*

*Sit* **DISTRIBUTION**

*Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord  
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

*LSB 637  
LSB 623*

*Stand* **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: Thank the Lord** 🎵

*LSB 164*

**C** *Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
tell ev'ryone what He has done.*

*Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear His name.*

*He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.*

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

*LSB 166*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**HYMN**

*O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth*

*LSB 834*

**Acknowledgments**

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