

February 20, 2022
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Communion
Reception of New Members
Guest Preacher – Collin Grooms, Executive Director at Bear Creek Camp
Worship Order
9:30 AM

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME

PRELUDE

All Praise to God, Who reigns above
– Melchior Vulpius, setting by Ludwig Lenel
Kevin Schanely, tenor David Lewis, trumpet

c. 1956 Concordia Publishing House
Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

LIGHTING OF THE TRINITY CANDLE

St. John's is a community that is

Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love.

We begin our worship in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.

Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE All glory be to God on high

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good - will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y, heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we praise you for your glo - ry. A - - men." The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and slurs.

All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
praise you for your glo - ry. A - - men.

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.

Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And 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. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As 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. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

N

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do 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. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If 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. ³⁵But 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. ³⁶Be 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; ³⁸give, 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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY Love, Love, Love! (sing thru two times)

Love, love, love! That's what it's all a - bout! 'Cause
 God loves us, we love each oth - er, moth-er, fa-ther, sis - ter, broth-er.
 Ev-'ry-bod-y sing and shout, 'cause that's what it's all a - bout! It's a-bout
 love, love, love! It's a-bout love, love, love!

Text: Lois Brokering and Herbert F. Brokering

© 1970 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

This church is a family of people who seek to be ignited,

ignited by the Spirit of God alive in us, as we care for one another, forgive one another, help one another, welcome one another, weeping and rejoicing together in faith.

New Members: *We want to be ignited, too!*

This church is a family of people who seek to be ignited by Spirit,

the Spirit of God who calls us into this journey of faith, a journey of continued searching and learning, of saying, "we believe; help our unbelief," as we live in the truth of God together.

New Members: *We want to be ignited by Spirit, too!*

This church is a family of people who are growing,

constantly growing as God's Spirit dwells within us, as we seek to grow into the example of Jesus who, for us, is God's example of what it is to be human and faithful. We know that our life of faith is a journey which we actively engage as we seek a better world, free of poverty and war and oppression and everything that dehumanizes people.

New Members: *We want to grow, too!*

This church is a family of people who are growing in love,
as we seek to follow Jesus, because Jesus put a face to God's love. In the person of Jesus, we see openness and mercy, we see welcome and acceptance, just as we are. But we also see in Jesus a love that does not leave us the way we are, as we seek to grow into the love that we see active in Jesus. It is this love that compels us to serve and love everyone we meet the way Jesus did.

New Members: *We want to grow in love, too!*

This church is a place that is committed to being Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love, together. We are glad you are here and welcome you into this journey with us. We offer you our love as we continue to grow together, empowered by the Spirit of God within us.

May this gift of the Spirit be ours together, this season and always, uniting, inspiring, leading and calling us, and the whole world, to newness of life. We are thankful for you and glad our lives are bound together and to God: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

MUSICAL OFFERING How Lovely Shines the Morning Star – setting by Harald Rohlig
David Lewis, trumpet Kevin Schanely tenor

Copyright 1959 by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri. International Copyright Secured. All rights reserved. Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

+ MEAL +

COMMUNION LITURGY

We remind one another: Jesus welcomes everyone at this table.

No one is turned away.

If you seek God's presence,

come and eat.

If you are hungry for this spiritual food,

come and eat.

If you have questions and doubts,

come and eat.

If you feel unworthy,

come and eat.

This table is spread for all of us that we each might experience God's abundant and unconditional love.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you that you have blessed our world with such diversity. Send us forth into the world that we might spread the good news of your love and care to all. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
bless your going out and your coming in,
today and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 661 I Love to Tell the Story

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol – setting by Paul Manz

c. 1962 Concordia Publishing House
Podcasted/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709256

The liturgy for today's worship service was reprinted by permission from Sundays and Seasons.com, copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #45176. The hymns and songs unless otherwise noted, are covered under copyright licenses; CCLI 1490857, OneLicense.net A-709256, or are Public Domain. Copyright 2022.

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Brian Allebach, Charles Krupp, Kenny Nace, Ann Brown Hager, David Mounts, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead, David and Linda Kratzer, Leah Crater, Leanne Kratzer, Steve Keyser, Sydney Crossin, Kathy Reese, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Theresa Hasson, Tal Umstead, Heidi Slook, Dorothy Rudolph, Mary Clayton, Michelle Baxter, Ruthie Jadick, Donna Derstine, Brian Derstine, Andrew Robison, Jeff Hart, Margaret Simon, Hailey Mientus, Jeff Jadick, Loretta Diehl, Judy Ockenlaender and Heidi Guess.

Mark your Calendar

Tuesday, Feb 22 7:30pm Faith Formation Reboot meeting
Wednesday, Feb 23 7pm Confirmation Learning
Saturday, Feb 19 9-11am Open Link Food Collection
9am-4pm Confirmation Sacrament Retreat

Sunday, Feb 27 8:45am Faith Formation (All ages)
9:30am Worship (and zoom)
1pm Heavenly Helpers Trip meeting
4-6pm YPO Hang Out Time—games and Pizza

We are grateful to Collin Grooms, Executive Director of Bear Creek Lutheran Camp, for bringing the message this morning.

Bear Creek Camp is a ministry of the Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. Located on nearly 3,000 acres in the beauty of the Pocono Mountains, Bear Creek Camp offers year-round opportunities including summer residential camp, nature day camp, environmental education programs, retreats for families, women, and artists, and rental opportunities. Our core purpose is to help individuals explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation. We hope to see you at camp soon!

There are flyers available in the narthex for more information about Bear Creek.

Ash Wednesday worship will be held in person and on Zoom at 6:30 PM. We hope this earlier time allows families with children to consider joining us for what is a truly unique worship experience.

Drive-Thru Ash Imposition

4-5:30 PM

Ash Wednesday, March 2

If you do not feel comfortable coming to in person worship or do not like to drive at night, Pastor Becky will be on the front church steps greeting people in their cars and imposing ashes. Simply pull into the circle from the main drive.

Lenten Prayer Partners return for 2022!

YOU are invited to sign up to receive a secret prayer partner for the season of Lent. If interested, click on the link below to sign up online or sign up on the sheet in the parlor and narthex. Sign ups will be open thru February 28. All names will be thrown into a hat and prayer partners will be pulled for each individual who signed up.

You will receive notification by Saturday, March 5 of who your prayer partner is. Then pray!

On Easter Sunday, April 17, we invite you to identify yourself to your secret prayer partner by sending or giving him/her a card that is **signed with your name**.

To sign up for a prayer partner online, go

to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084FA8AD2CAAFD0-lenten>

The Easter Eggstravaganza is ON!

Donations of store-bought, individually wrapped Easter candy that will fit into regular-sized plastic eggs are needed. Donation bins are in the narthex and parlor. Donations will be received thru Sunday, April 3. Thank you for supporting this outreach event!

YPO! Two events coming up-

Sunday, Feb 27th, 4-6pm—come join us at church for some games and pizza

Sunday, March 6th, 6-8pm—bowling at Earl Bowl, sign up on the board by PB's office or by emailing PB at pastorbecky74@gmail.com

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event Saturday, March 19th

Three shifts are available - to allow for as many folks to participate, please only sign up for ONE packaging shift.

8:30-10 AM—Set Up Shift

10-11 AM—Meal Packaging Shift One

11:30-12:30 PM—Meal Packaging Shift Two

Sign up at: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/StJohnsGreenLane>

Heavenly Helper Spring Trip Planning meeting next Sunday at 1pm

There are so many places in need... wildfires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes. The decision of where to go could be anywhere in the country, but we have decided to go to Kentucky where tornadoes hit last December.

We will leave for Kentucky on March 26th and return April 2, 2022.

Let me tell you what it is like to go to a disaster area. There are so many emotions that go through your body and mind. It is devastating and so hard to take in, but there is also an overwhelming sensation of fulfillment. Listening to their stories will definitely leave you with a sense of loss and compassion. The look on their faces as they see what perfect strangers are willing to do for them will leave you with a sense of true happiness. Believe me when I tell you that there will be a part of you that will never be the same!

Gift Cards—One of the needs that has been identified in Kentucky where the Heavenly Helper mission team will be serving is for gift cards in any monetary amount to Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, Target and VISA. Collection boxes for the gift cards will be available in the narthex and parlor from Feb 13 thru March 20.

If you think you would like to join us or have any questions, please call Elaine Keller at 215-262-5366 or email me at elaineakeller@comcast.net

Tal and I greatly appreciate the meals and support shown by our St. John's family and wish you all to know that if there is anything we can do for you, please let us know.
With our sincere thanks, Kelly and Tal Umstead

From Friedens Union Cemetery Assoc.

We would like to remind people who have Christmas arrangements up at the cemetery to please retrieve them. The cemetery committee will be cleaning off the cemetery around March 1 weather permitting. Please also be aware that the driveways up in the cemetery are not maintained in the winter. Thank you, any questions feel free to call Evey Koffel.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Our mid-week Lenten worship will turn us toward God's abundance by focusing on five divine attributes of faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness and love. Join us for worship on the Wednesdays in Lent at 7PM.

March 9 – Palm Schwenkfelder
March 16 – New Goshenhoppen UCC
March 23 – St. Mark's Lutheran
March 30 – Pennsburg UCC
April 6 – St. John's Lutheran

Worship will be held in-person at each of the host churches listed above. Worship will also be accessible virtually using whatever method the host church is currently employing for virtual worship.

Due to the continued rise in numbers with the pandemic, there will be no fellowship time following worship.