

# Peace Lutheran Church + ELCA

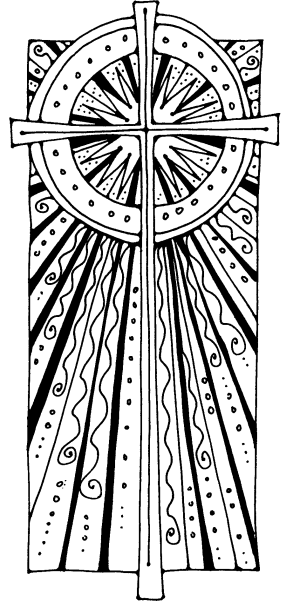
Menomonie, WI

## The Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Worship with Holy Communion

9 a.m. Sunday, February 12, 2023

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

### INVOCATION

We come here as many, varied in backgrounds and perspectives, each with a journey and wisdom to share.

**Whenever we gather, help us to value the diversity that is ours in the body of Christ.**

We join the world's creatures, the earth, sky, and sea, we join with all people in lands far and near.

**All these are neighbors, without them we're less; each one God-created, each one Spirit-blessed.**

We gather this Sunday in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

**Amen.**

### CONFESSION

In this Epiphany season, rejoicing in the star and magi, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

God of Love and Light...

**We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.**

**We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger.**

**We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.**

**We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.**

**Forgive us Lord, and teach us to walk as children of light, sharing your love, forgiveness and healing with all people everywhere. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.**

God is light, and in God there is no darkness as all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:**        *“Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”*        **ELW #807**

**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.**

**KYRIE:** pg 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray. **O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING    Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

*The LORD sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God’s presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.*

[Moses said to the people:]

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

<sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them,

<sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

<sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Word of the Lord.    **Thanks be to God!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you to Pastor Jon Becker for leading our worship today!**

**Thank you to our organist, Kittrick Singerhouse**

**Thank you to our volunteers today:**

Reader:    Luanne Prochnow

Ushers:    Court Sand and Curt Hagberg

**UPDATES**

**Ash Wednesday Worship**

**6 p.m. on February 22**

**Pastor Dave Whelan officiating**

**We are uncertain about upcoming Lenten services. We ask your patience as we wait for an interim. We will get a schedule out as soon as possible....watch Facebook and our website.**

**Office Hours for the Month of February**

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Confirmation Class:**

**The Confirmands will have regular Confirmation Classes the weeks there are no Lenten Services. If there is a Lenten service, Confirmands are required to attend the worship service instead of class.**

**Please plan on attending the Ash Wednesday Worship—no confirmation class.  
Contact Kathy Forster with questions.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

Visitors and guests, all who believe in the Lord Jesus are invited to come  
forward and join this family in receiving this gift of life.

### BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God...

**that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and  
salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may live peace, do justice,  
love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

...Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG : "Blest Be The Tie That Binds"**

**ELW # 656**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live and share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE



## THE PSALM FOR THE DAY PSALM: Psalm 119:1-8

*Please read responsively*

*Happy are they who follow the teaching of  
the LORD. (Ps. 119:1)*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching of the LORD!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they who observe your decrees  
and seek you with all their hearts,**

<sup>3</sup>who never do any wrong,  
but always walk in your ways.

<sup>4</sup>**You laid down your commandments,  
that we should fully keep them.**

<sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were made so direct  
that I might keep your statutes!

<sup>6</sup>**Then I should not be put to shame,  
when I regard all your commandments.**

<sup>7</sup>I will thank you with a true heart,  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

<sup>8</sup>**I will keep your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.**

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**GOSPEL: GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37**

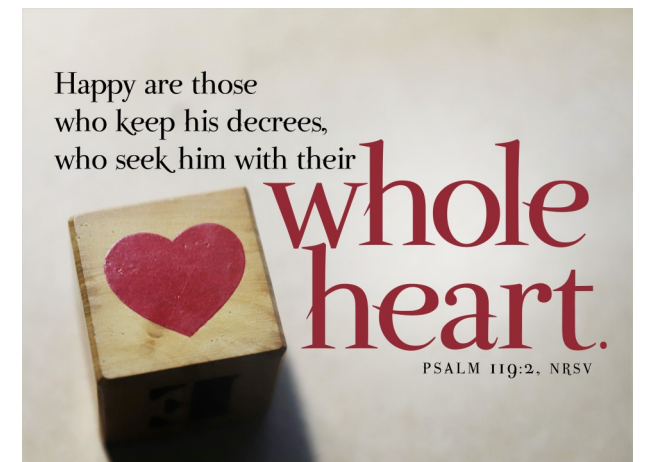
*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of  
righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.*

**[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to those of an-  
cient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judg-  
ment.' <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be  
liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the  
council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire.**

<sup>23</sup>**So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your  
brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the  
altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer  
your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to  
court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to  
the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly I tell you, you will never  
get out until you have paid the last penny.**



<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’

<sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

<sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

<sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’

<sup>32</sup>But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’

<sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

<sup>36</sup>And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”*

**ELW # 599**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true man, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit. We trust God.**

**We are called to be God’s church: to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, as our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need *especially those we name silently*. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERING**



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Our gracious and giving God...

**...we give back to you today, perhaps not as we ought, but as we are able. Use our gifts in this church and through this church to continue your work and to share the life-changing gift of Jesus. Amen!**