THE BEATITUDES

"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in Reaven."

Matthew 5:12, ESV

February 16, 2025

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's star, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

GATHERING

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE – Bell Choir

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- *P:* Even in our greatest struggles, Christ says, "Blessed are you, for yours is the kin-dom of God.
- All: For all who hunger will be filled. And all who weep will rejoice and laugh."
- P: The peace of Christ is with you.
- All: And also with you.

Please share the peace with each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: God's faithful love welcomes us here.
- All: Thank God for this glorious gift!
- L: God's faithful love redeems our lives.
- All: Thank God for our many blessings!
- L: God's faithful love is ours to share.
- All: We will offer this gift to God's world.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

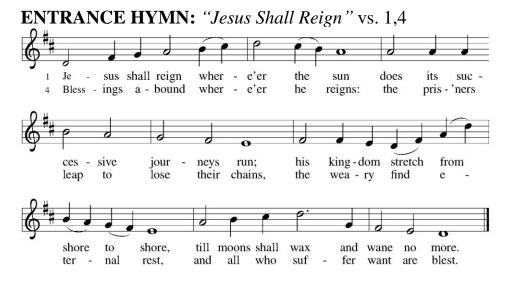
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

- P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
- All: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.
- *P:* Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah, Naamah, and their family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river

your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

- All: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.
- *P:* To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Redeemer in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- All: Amen.



GREETING

- *P:* Faithful God, we come to you from many walks of life.
- All: Some of us come after wandering off.
- *P:* Others come sensing that you are as close as their very breath.
- All: From our many journeys, welcome us with your love.
- *P:* Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might sense your presence in our lives.
- All: In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

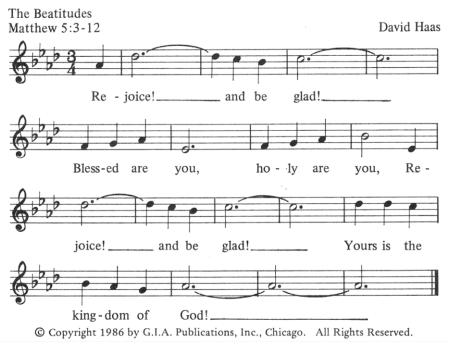
- L: Holy One, when the road is dusty under our feet and we find ourselves engulfed, you share with us the water of life.
- All: You plant our spirits by the streams of your Being.
- L: You nourish our bodies and replenish our souls.
- All: You challenge our minds and guide our hearts.
- L: Lead us, again, O God, into your presence with your prayers.

All: Be with us, as your renewing love overflows from our lives and our souls into the world. Amen.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Blest Are They"

Congregation please join in on the refrains.



WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

- R: Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs.
- All: You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it?
- R: Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before.
- All: Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today.

- R: We know you are speaking,
- All: so we are listening.
- R: The first reading is from First Corinthians, chapter fifteen, beginning with the twelfth verse.

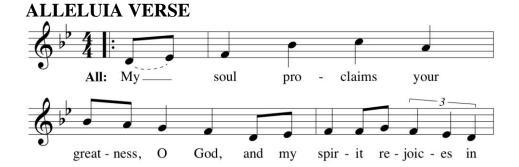
READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

R: Word of God, word of light.

All: Thanks be to God.





P: The holy Gospel according to Luke. **All: Glory to you, O God.**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all.

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

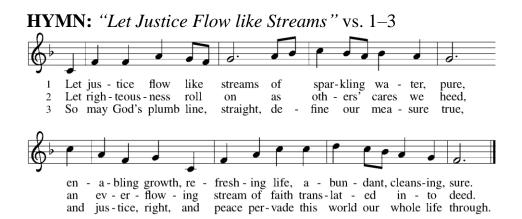
"You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours. You who hunger now are blessed, for you'll be filled. You who weep now are blessed, for you'll laugh. You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One. On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way. But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full. Woe to you who are full, for you'll go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you'll weep in your grief. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in the same way."

P: The Gospel of our Messiah.All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME - Pastor Tim





Be Seated

MESSAGE – Pastor Tim

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

- L: God has satisfied the hunger of both our bodies and our souls.
- All: Let us share our gifts with all God's creation, that weeping may turn to laughter, and struggle may turn to joy.

OFFERING





OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L: Merciful God, you bless us beyond measure or belief.
- All: May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world.
- L: May these gifts nourish all who have need.
- All: Amen.



PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS

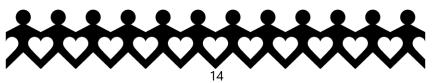
P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Christina, Steven, Aaron, Michael, Cynthia, Linda, Gina, Victoria, Larry, Joella, Kevin, Mackenzie, Zabrina, Cade, Haley, Kristin, Tony, Janice, Jay, Connor, Parker, Arthur, Michael, Dot, and Penny - one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

As you desire to make public affirmation as a sign of your renewal and participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ, we ask you the following questions:

APOSTLES' CREED

- L: Do you believe in God the Father?
- All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- All: 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.
- L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- All: 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.
- *P:* Do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?
- New Members: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.
- *P:* People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these members in their life in Christ?
- All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.
- P: Dear God, we give you thanks for Christina, Steven, Aaron, Michael, Cynthia, Linda, Gina, Victoria, Larry, Joella, Kevin, Mackenzie, Zabrina, Cade, Haley, Kristin, Tony, Janice, Jay, Connor, Parker, Arthur, Michael, Dot and Penny whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we welcome into this household of faith.
- All: Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread, the prayers, and in service to others.



WELCOME

- <u>Council President</u>: Let us welcome Christina, Steven, Aaron, Michael, Cynthia, Linda, Gina, Victoria, Larry, Joella, Kevin, Mackenzie, Zabrina, Cade, Haley, Kristin, Tony, Janice, Jay, Connor, Parker, Arthur, Michael, Dot and Penny to this community of faith.
- All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Please Stand

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- L: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,
- All: hear our prayer.
- L: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,
- All: hear our prayer.
- L: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,
- All: hear our prayer.
- L: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,
- All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- L: God is with you.
- All: And also with you.
- L: Lift up your hearts!
- All: We lift them up to God!
- L: Celebrate God's love!
- All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

THE EUCHARIST

- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- All: Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
- *P:* In the night in which he was betrayed, 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. 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. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

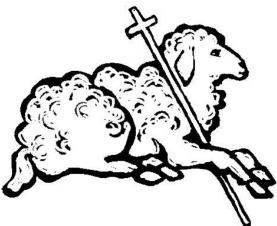
- *P:* Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.
- All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

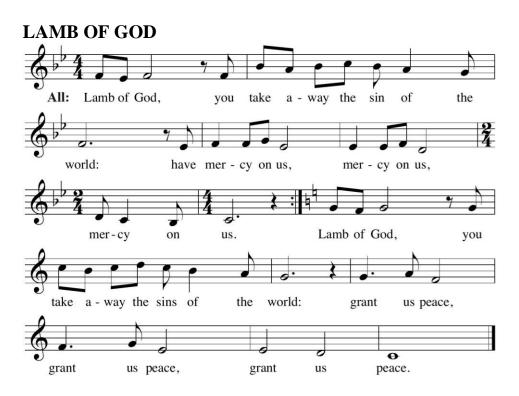
FRACTION RITE

- *P:* The joy of God is our strength.
- All: All are welcomed at this meal of gladness.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward to communion after the Lamb of God is sung.





Holy Communion is open to all.

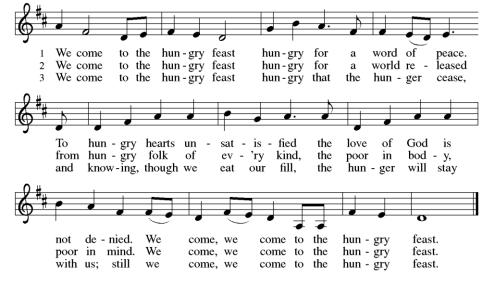
Wine is red, grape juice is yellow, water is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

For communion at the altar rail:

When directed by the ushers, you may come up the center aisle to the altar rail, stand or kneel, and hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into. Eat. Then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (light yellow), or water (clear) from the assistant. Drink. Then place your empty cup in the tray that follows. Rise and return to your seat via the side aisles.



COMMUNION HYMN: "We Come to the Hungry Feast"



COMMUNION HYMN: "Blessed Assurance"

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;

3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood. an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



SINGING BOWL

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- *P:* God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.
- All: Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the light of Jesus Christ. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- L: We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation.
- All: Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

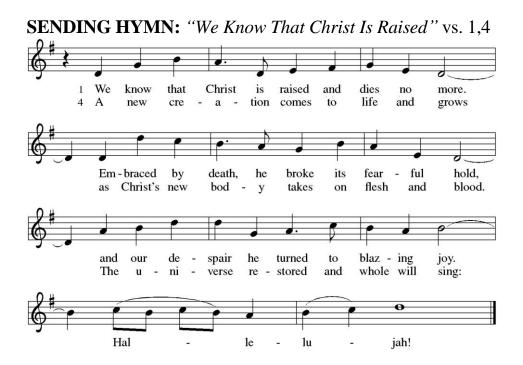
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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS





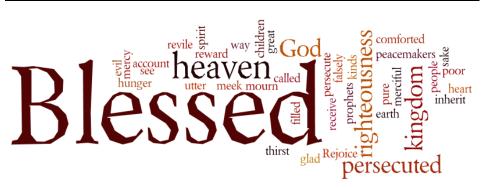




SENDING

L: Go into the world, following the Living God– All: this day and all days. Amen.

POSTLUDE



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