

# WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

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Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner (cell phone: 602-510-9575)

## **WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.**

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2025

9:00am

*-Service of Word and Sacrament-*

*The Gathering*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 434 *"JESUS SHALL REIGN" VS. 1, 2, 3, & 5*

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

**P** 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 for reflection and self-examination*

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 lovingkindness.**  
**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**  
**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.**

## PASTORAL GREETING

**P** 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*[Congregation is seated.]*

## The Word

### FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 17:5-10

*These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.*

5 Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

8 They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

10 I the Lord test the mind  
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

Word of God, word of life.      **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM : Psalm 1

*They are like trees planted by streams of water. (Ps. 1:3)*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that  
do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**SECOND READING: I CORINTHIANS 15:12-20**

*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15 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. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

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

Word of God, word of life.      **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 174 "CELTIC ALLELUIA"**



## GOSPEL: | Luke 6:17-26

*After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.*

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

7 [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.<sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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

## SERMON: PASTOR KIM

### INSTALLATION OF CELC COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

#### *A brief silence.*

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,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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,  
**hear our prayer.**

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 (*especially*). Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

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,  
**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

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

*"AND THE FATHER WILL DANCE"*

MUSIC AND ARR. BY MARK HAYES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.  
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. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

#### [THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

**P** on the night before he died...

Again, after supper ...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

#### LAMB OF GOD

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.

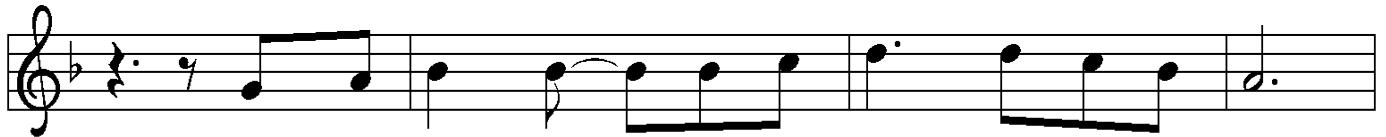
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant us peace, grant us peace

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 725 "WHEN THE POOR ONES"



1 *Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,*  
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



*cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,*  
when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



*cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:*  
when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;  
when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:  
when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:  
when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



*Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;*  
We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



*va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.*  
we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

ELW 728 "BLEST ARE THEY"

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -  
 3 Blest are they . . . . . who show mer - cy; mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they . . . . . who seek peace; . . they are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,  
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who  
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the  
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who  
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,



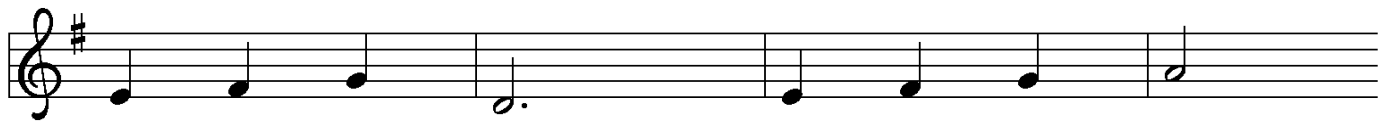
full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.  
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
 pure of heart; they . . . . . shall see God.  
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.  
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

## PASTORAL BLESSING

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Nourishing God,  
we 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

#### BENEDICTION:

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

#### SENDING SONG: ELW 723 "CANTICLE OF TURNING" VS. 1-3



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



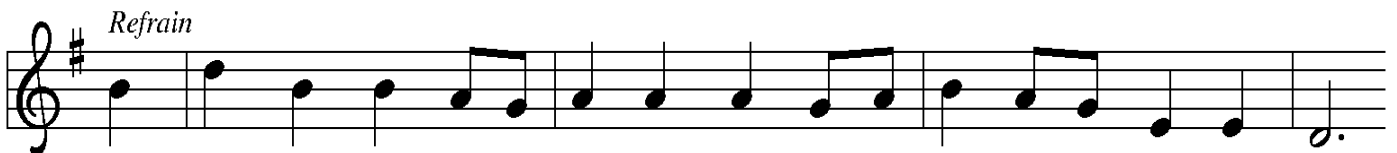
You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



*Refrain*  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

**DISMISSAL:**

**P**

Go in peace! Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

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