

# The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

02/16/2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

---

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

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

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

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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 us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN:** [ELW#843 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"](#)

- P** The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



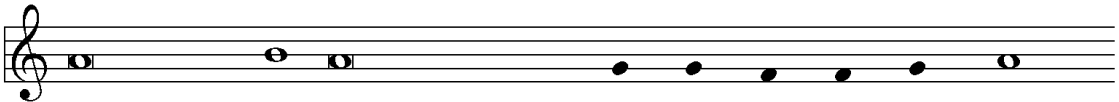
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **☩ Lord, have mer - cy.**

**☩** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **☩ A - men**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:** [This is the Feast](#)

**☩** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

**☩** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

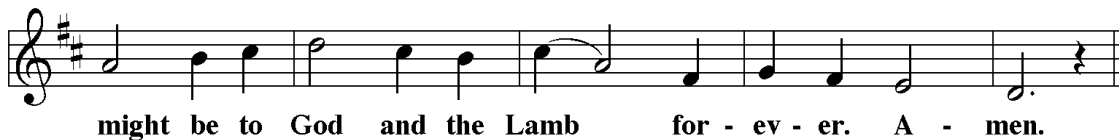
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

*Please be seated.*

## **PSALM 146**

**L** <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**C** <sup>2</sup>**I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

**L** <sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**C** <sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**C** <sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

**L** <sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The Lord sets the captive free.

**C** <sup>8</sup>**The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

**L** <sup>9</sup>The Lord cares for the stranger;  
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**C** <sup>10</sup>**The Lord shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### **LUKE 7:18-35**

**L** A reading from Luke: <sup>18</sup>... John summoned two of his disciples <sup>19</sup>and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?" <sup>20</sup>When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to expect someone else?'" <sup>21</sup>Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, afflictions, and evil spirits and had given sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight; the lame walk; those with a skin disease are cleansed; the deaf hear; the dead are raised; the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. <sup>26</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup>"I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." <sup>29</sup>(And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, having been baptized with John's baptism. <sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and the experts in the law, not having been baptized by him, rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

<sup>31</sup>"To what, then, will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.'

<sup>33</sup>"For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>34</sup>the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' <sup>35</sup>Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** [ELW#722 "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"](#)

**SERMON:** [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

### Pastor Greg's Context-O-Meter for the Gospel of Luke



The Prologue	1:1–4
The Infancy Narratives	1:5–2:52
Preparation for the Ministry of Jesus	3:1–4:15
The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee	4:16–9:50
The Journey to Jerusalem	9:51–19:27
The Ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem	19:28–21:38
The Suffering and Death of Jesus	22:1–23:56
The Resurrection of Jesus	24:1–53

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**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**

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

*A brief silence.*

- L** 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,

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

- L** 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,

**C** **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,

**C** **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. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Lydia Hendersen, Mark Hughes, Mary Kissh, Kaitlyn Leedy, Charlotte Leer, Wendy

Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Yunlai Sun, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. God of grace,

**C** **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,

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

**L** For whom or what else shall we pray?

*The congregation is invited at this time to lift up prayers quietly or aloud.*

**L** Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

**C** **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.

**C** **Amen**

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

**C** **And also with you.**

**OFFERING\*:** ([On-Line giving Link](#))

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.*

**RESPONSE:** ["Create in Me"](#)



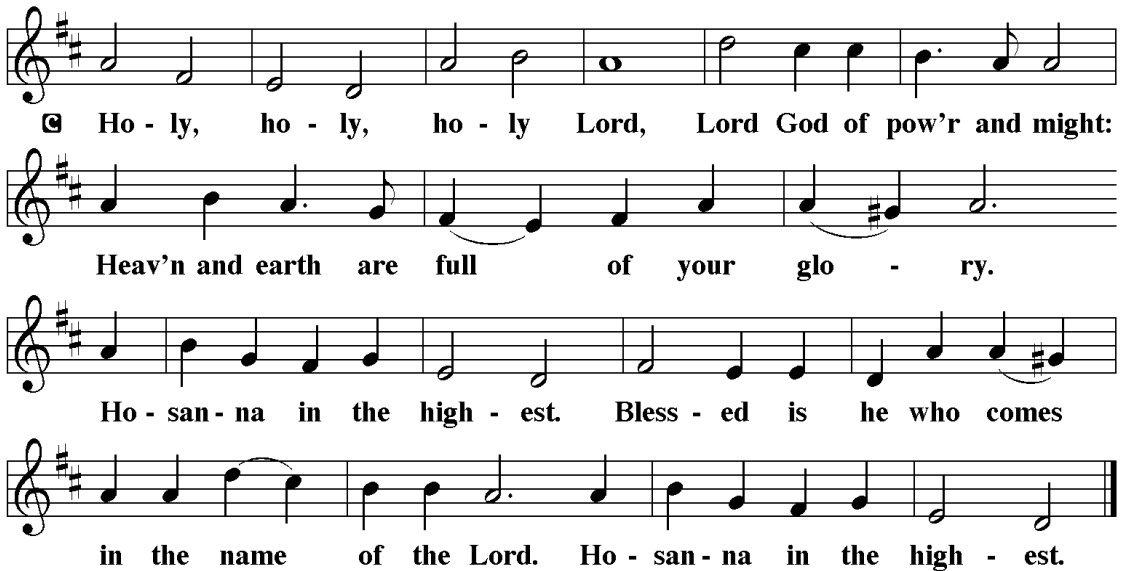
**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:*



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

**Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.**

**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.**

**P** Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord 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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your

Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**C Amen**

**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**

**P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

*After all have communed, the following is sung:*

**RESPONSE: "Lamb of God"**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen



**☞** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen

**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

**SENDING HYMN:** [ELW#661 "I Love to Tell the Story"](#)

**P** Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

## C Thanks be to God.

\*Offering to be sent to  
Robert Brackbill  
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church  
9122 Sybert Drive  
Columbia Hills  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Sunday, 3/2/2025 3 pm, Memorial Service for Doittie Reitz.
- Tuesday, 3/4/2025 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Pancake Supper by the Venture Crew
- Wednesday, 3/5/2025 7 pm, Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday Lenten Series – Soup-and-Bread Supper beginning 3/12/2025 6 pm

### Upcoming Worship

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
February 23	7 Epiphany	Luke 7:36-50	Monica
March 2	Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-45	Heidi and Bob
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Luke 9:51-62	Pastor Greg
March 9	1 Lent	Luke 10:25-42	Julie and Dave
March 16	2 Lent	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	Ron
March 23	3 Lent	Luke 15:1-32	Monica
March 30	4 Lent	Luke 16:19-31	Pastor Greg

April 6	5 Lent	Luke 18:31-19:10	Heidi and Bob
April 13	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:29-44	Julie and Dave

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.