

Introduction to the day

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P We remember our baptism
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

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 is kept for reflection.

P To you, O God,

**C all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

P By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of + Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
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GREETING

P Christ has called us to this place,
 gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C We are followers of Christ
 who seek to hear the Word,
 live the Word,
 and share the Word.

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

C And also with you.



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
 1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
 Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you
 C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
 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.
 C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30 Chancel Choir
 8:30 Choir on Fire
 11:00 Praise Team

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt." ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (*Ps. 37:11*)

¹ Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers;

do not be jealous of those ¹ who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither ¹ like the grass,
and like the green grass ¹ fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD ¹ and do good;
dwell in the land and ¹ find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight ¹ in the LORD,
who shall give you your ¹ heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust ¹ in the LORD,
and see what ¹ God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear ¹ as the light
and the justice of your case like the ¹ noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait ¹ patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in ¹ evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave ¹ rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- ¹ ly to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall ¹ be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- ¹ sess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall ¹ be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will ¹ not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall pos- ¹ sess the land;
they will delight in abun- ¹ dance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from ¹ you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in ¹ time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and ¹ rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you ¹ they seek refuge.

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

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

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

⁴⁸ As 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. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 6th chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

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.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do 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. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If 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. ³⁵ But 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. ³⁶ Be 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; ³⁸ give, 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 back."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING



THE OFFERTORY

Take My Life, That I May Be (vv. 1-4)

(ELW 685)

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (*especially*).

Arlene Walch, Dawn Heining, Mel Satnan, Nathan Streng, Stephany Sanborn, Tim Wegner, Bonnie Kral, Doni Gregory, Janet Kraemer, Kim Meyer-Kuenzli, Frank Kraft, Roberta Califf, Tyler, Vivian Jo Parish, Summer

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (*other ministries may be named*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (*especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna*).

SYMPATHY to the family of...

Colleen Anderson , aunt of Ross Jensen

May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

THE 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.

BLESSING

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

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

I Love to Tell the Story

(ELW 661)

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911
 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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