



# **Sixth Sunday After Epiphany**

## **February 16, 2025**

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” 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.

**St. John’s Lutheran Church**  
**1000 Helena Ave.**  
**Helena, Montana 59601**  
**(406) 442-6270**

*Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold print** and stand, as you are able, at the places marked with an \**

**Prelude:**

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,

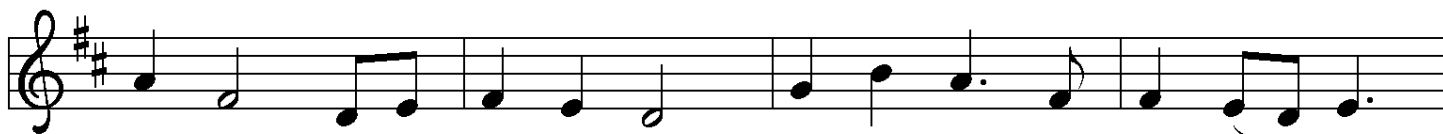
**for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.**

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ,  
our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** ..... “We Come to the Hungry Feast” ELW#479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

**\*Apostolic 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.

**\*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.

**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.*

— <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20:**

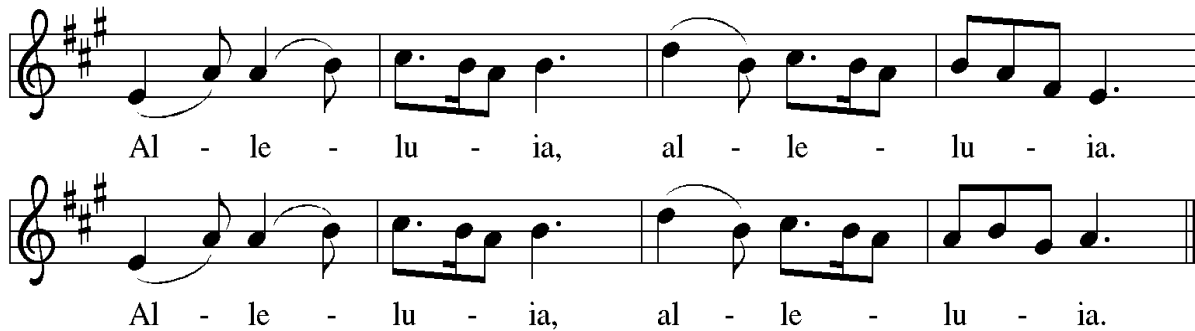
*For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.*

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Celtic Alleluia*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*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 Luke, the sixth chapter beginning with the seventeenth verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> [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, <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.

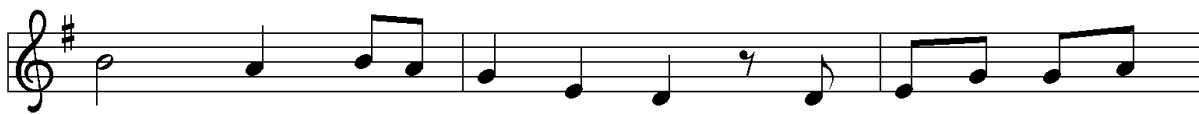
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Message:**.....**Pastor Keith Weatherford**

**Sermon:**.....**Pastor Keith Weatherford**

*(Silence For Reflection After the Sermon)*

**\*Hymn of the Day:**..... **"Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW726**



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



*Refrain*  
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

**\*Apostles Creed:**

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

**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.**

**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.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession:**

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

**\*Prayer Response:**        *(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.)*

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.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace:**

*(...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19))*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)*

**Offering:**

*(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need and the communion table is set.)*

**Offertory Anthem:** .....**“Chatter with the Angels”**  
African-American Spiritual  
arr. by Sondra K. Tucker  
Celebration Ringers

**\*Offering Prayer:**

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 to the Lord.**

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

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who is your light made manifest to all nations. So with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





# Holy, Holy, Holy

## *Great Thanksgiving*



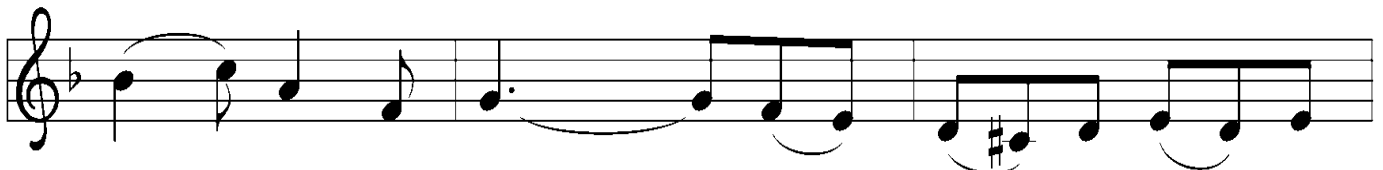
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*Words of Institution:**

Holy, mighty and merciful God, in great love you sent Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Lords Prayer:**

**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.**

**\*Invitation to Communion:**

The Joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*(We celebrate this meal together at Christ's table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary. Wine is the darker liquid on the outer portion of the tray. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)*

**Communion Hymn: .....“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” ELW712**



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

**\*Prayer After Communion:**

Let us pray. Nourishing God, 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.**

**\*Blessing:**

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

**Amen.**

\*Sending Hymn:.....“Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723



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:**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude:**

**Prayers**

**In our prayers:** Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Dan Jacobson, Gracie Weber, Debbie Brashear, Kynlie Weber, Everyn Weber, Ann Hadley

**For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:**

Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

**For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy:**

Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul, 1LT Maggie Smiedala

**For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:** All the Saints in Heaven

**Missionaries:** Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

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**Submission for Bulletin, Wednesday at noon**  
**Submission for Herald, the 25th of each month**

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday, February 16**

**9:30 am -Worship with Holy Communion**

**10:30 am -Fellowship**

**10:45 am -Bible Study**

### **Monday, February 17**

**10:00 am– Staff Meeting**

**6:00 pm Celebration Ringers Rehearsal**

### **Wednesday, February 19**

**9:00 am– Quilting**

**5:15 pm-Bells of St. John’s Rehearsal**

**6:30 pm– Midweek/Space of Grace**

### **Thursday, February 20**

**7:00 pm-Choir Rehearsal**

### **Sunday, February 23**

**9:30 am- Worship with Holy Communion**

**10:30 am– Fellowship**

**10:45– Bible Study**

**Social Ministry for February:** Lutheran Disaster Response and Helena Food Share

### **FLBC Presidents Day Weekend Retreat for Middle School**

8 youth and 2 adults will be traveling up to FLBC with Our Redeemer's Saturday through Monday. Please pray for safe travels for us and for a time of rest and for a time of faith and community building during our retreat weekend!

**March 5, 2025** Ash Wednesday, Services at Noon or 6:30 pm

### **VBS 2025 August 11-15**

We are shaking things up this year and have moved our annual VBS week to August! Be on the lookout for registration forms, our theme, and other fun activities associated with the week!

### **“Falling Upward”, Richard Rohr**

Are you living and loving your golden years, or maybe not? The 2nd half of life is more than getting old, health issues, loss. We’ll be offering insights in a six-week discussion based on Richard Rohr’s book, “Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the “Two Halves of Life” Our first gathering is on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30-8:00pm at Our Redeemers Lutheran Church, 3580 Benton Ave. We’ll have 6 gatherings, finishing on April 15. Facilitators are Father Dan Shea and Charlotte Neall. The book is available on Amazon. Both 2011 and 2023 editions, new or used are appropriate. A head count will be helpful. Call or text Fr. Dan 406-422-6674; e-mail [dshea@carroll.edu](mailto:dshea@carroll.edu); or 406-449-2521 and leave a voice message; or Charlotte Neill at 651-587-8083 or [cneill001@luthersem.edu](mailto:cneill001@luthersem.edu).

**Pastor Brad Ulgenes** will lead a six hour Bible workshop using a manual called *See Through The Scriptures* on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cost of the manual for the workshop will be \$15. For an additional \$5 participants can order a workbook ( not mandatory) that can be used for personal study following the workshop. Free or loaner manuals will be available for those who request one. There will be Jimmy John's sandwiches for lunch for purchase.

Understanding the Bible can be daunting. *See Through The Scriptures* makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step by step through the entire biblical narrative, especially the Old Testament, putting everything in clear context. 44 full color teaching graphics are used to help people grasp and remember the key events and concepts of the Bible, especially the three major covenants in the Old Testament and how Jesus in the New Testament fulfills those covenants. *See Through the Scriptures* is part of the Crossways/Divine Drama series authored by Pastor Harry Wendt.

Students will gain a new appreciation for everything that preceded Jesus in order to more fully understand the deeper meaning of Jesus' ministry and his message of love and servanthood. This workshop is perfect for students who have not studied the Bible before and will teach mature Bible readers new Biblical concepts and overarching themes in the Bible to enrich their faith.

Sign up for Bible workshop and materials will begin February 16. You can register by calling Our Redeemer's church office at 406-442-7842 or email at [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org) . You can also email Pastor Brad at [brad.ulgenes@gmail.com](mailto:brad.ulgenes@gmail.com) to sign up, ask questions or get information. Sorry no zoom or streaming for this workshop. Pray about attending this exciting Bible workshop on March 29 as part of your Lenten journey. Come and bring a friend. It will change your understanding and knowledge of the Bible and it will be a lot of fun!

As a steadfast and long-term supporter for **Family Promise of Greater Helena**, we invite you to our Comfort Food Challenge on Sunday **March 23rd from 3:00 pm to 6:00pm** at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. You understand what it takes to fulfill our mission to help children and their families overcome homelessness and become sustainably independent. Support our efforts and enjoy a wide variety of food samples prepared by congregations, restaurants and food trucks. Auctions and raffle baskets are part of the fundraiser, please reach out to us to donate from your business or talent. We are always grateful for monetary event sponsors also.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per family. In person tickets are available from the church office, Birds & Beasley's, the Blackfoot River Brewing Co., and the Myrna Loy.

Contact: Randal Rake, [randalrake@gmail.com](mailto:randalrake@gmail.com)

**Worship Assistants**

**Acolyte:**

**Usher:**

**Greeter/Coffee Servers:**

**Communion:** Linda Wollitz, Bing Crosby, Laura Nachtsheim, Gwynn Munding

**Lector:** Karin Steenberg

**Streaming/Power Point:** K'Lynn Harris

**Pianist/Organist:** Connie Conley

**Prayer Station:** Mary Crosby

**Altar Guild:** Gayle Grimsrud, Mildred Twingley, Teresa Kinley

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**Brian Tetrault:** 406-461-5389 — brian.m.tetrault@gmail.com

**Paul Gronbeck:** 913-680-7285 — paul.gronbeck@gmail.com

**Jenny Taylor:**

**New Option for online giving.**

Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving.

Questions on how this works? Please contact the church office.

