



# **nenth Sunday After Epiphany**

## **February 23, 2025**

Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us  
the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful  
ing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of  
revealed in Christ.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**1000 Helena Ave.**  
**Helena, Montana 59601**

**Announcements:**

**Prayer for Baptism:**

*the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister b*

and be the holy Trinity,  
God,  
fountain of living water,  
Father who gave us birth,  
light and our salvation.

to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
We give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God,

**at 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 stillness.  
At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us  
with the water of life.**

Praise you for your salvation through water,  
water in this font,  
water for all water everywhere.  
Give us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Give to all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

Let us be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ,  
in the water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;  
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand  
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.  
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone  
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe  
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity  
in your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."  
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—in the least, your face we view,  
saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you."

4 Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,  
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.  
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you:  
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.

**reeting:**

ace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
e communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

also with you.

**e Day:**

pray. O Lord Jesus,

us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, wh  
, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we m  
e, to understand, and to love in your name. for you live and reign with the Fat  
spirit, one God, now and forever.

*During a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them*

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer, and I will speak to you." They came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve for you and your wives life. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you and your wives life on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me to Egypt, but God, who made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of Egypt. Come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and your wives shall come to me. <sup>11</sup> 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.' " <sup>15</sup> And he kissed his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of the Lord.

**Prayers be to God.**

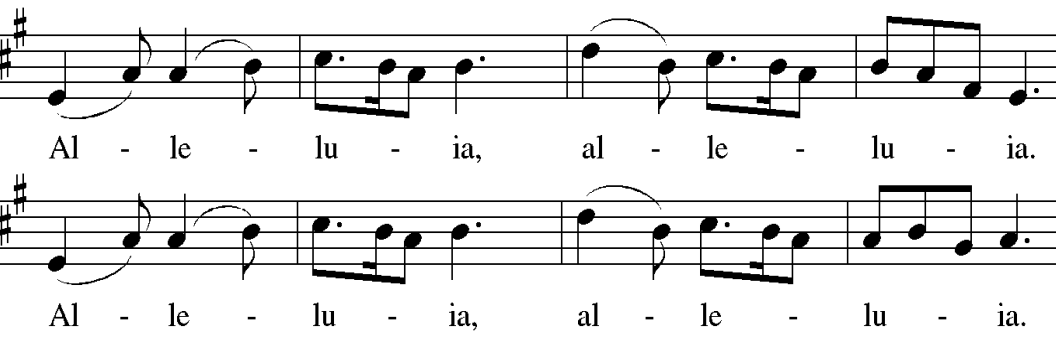
### **Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50**

*in the Nicene Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a sown seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of how mortal life is raised into eternity.*

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" The answer is that what you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow that which is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he chooses, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. As there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, was a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> 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. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of earth, so we shall bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: We cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of the Lord.

**Prayers be to God.**



**Luke 6:27-38**

Jesus goes to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's love results in overflowing blessing.

In the Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter beginning with the twenty-seventh

**verse is addressed to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and to those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not demand them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good to them, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of your Father in Heaven; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Give, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>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.”

of the Holy Gospel of the Lord.

**verse is addressed to you, O Christ.**

(Silence For Reflection After the Sermon)

Day:.....“Spirit, Open My Heart”

Refrain



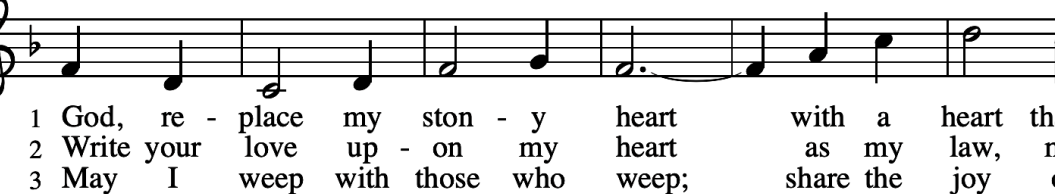
Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv -



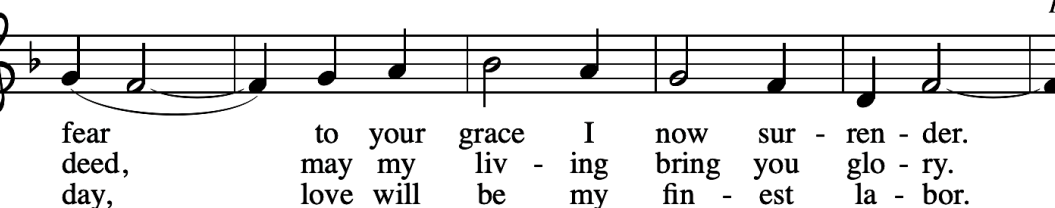
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart th  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, m  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy o



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness an  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, an  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to



fear deed, day, to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
love will be my fin - est la - bor.

**ve 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.**

**ve 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.**

**ntercession:**

ne Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and  
n.

**onse:**           *(Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.)*

f grace,

**our prayer.**

trust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is re  
the people.

**he Peace:**

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

ace of Christ be with you always.

**lso with you.**

*ay greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with yo*

place in my heart for pieces by F. Melius Christiansen and his son Olaf C. Christensen. I have included these pieces with my college chorale. My director had studied at St. Olaf, and he carried on the Christiansen technique and choral excellence going to the college I attended. The text for the chorale is for wisdom as well as praise for the Light, which is an everlasting presence in our world. For Lent and Easter, let this be your prayer, too.

*O Light everlasting, O Love never failing.  
Illumine our darkness, and draw us to Thee;  
May we from Thy spirit receive inspiration,  
That brethren together Thy wisdom may see.  
Make known to all nations, Thy peace and salvation.  
And help us, O Father, Thy temple to be.*

### **Prayer:**

Pray, God of Grace,

**your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless us in response to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with your love, kindness and generosity, now and always.**

### **Thanksgiving:**

Thanksgiving be with you.

**Thanksgiving also with you.**

Thanksgiving your hearts.

**Thanksgiving bring them to the Lord.**

Thanksgiving give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Thanksgiving ought to give God our thanks and praise.**

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





and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened  
to all.

night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke  
to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the  
remembrance of me.

after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This  
new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do  
this in remembrance of me.

remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory  
and send upon you the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this  
meal of life, 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.

**Prayer:**

**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.  
Deliver us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

### **Communion:**

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

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



come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, lov  
 come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as al  
 Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - v  
 Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but e  
 - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that G



e, the life of Je - sus to re - cal  
 l, the new com - mu - ni - ty of lov  
 ds. The love that made us, makes us one  
 ar, is in such friend - ship bet - ter kno  
 ne, we'll go with joy, to give the wo



laid down for me, in love laid down for me  
 st's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bre  
 ng - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are frie  
 a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us her  
 that makes us one, the love that makes us one

**Prayer for Communion:**

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 hope for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you

lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 -'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine.

lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 -'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine.

lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 -'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine.  
 sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine.

it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

peace. Live in hope.

s be to God.

**g:** Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, n Boettcher, Ken Downing, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, chard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, icki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland, Jana Clark, Dan Jac, Debbie Brashear, Kynlie Weber, Everyn Weber, Ann Hadley

**residential living centers, extended care or homebound:**

Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, , Jimmie McGee

**o are deployed and getting ready to deploy:**

tschi, Raffy Suchikul, 1LT Maggie Smiedala

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

Missionaries around the world; Willie Langdji in Cameroon

**Worship with Holy Communion**  
**ellowship**  
**ble Study**

**February 24**  
**aff Meeting**  
**eboration Ringers Rehearsal**

**February 25**  
**ilting**  
**s of St. John's Rehearsal**  
**dweek/Space of Grace**

**February 27**  
**oir Rehearsal**

**March 2: Bold Woman Sunday**  
**orship with Holy Communion,**  
**ellowship**  
**Study**

**March 3**  
**aff meeting**  
**eboration Ringers**

**March 4**  
**g Friends**  
**pitality**

**March 5**  
**lting**  
**Wednesday Service**  
**lls of St. John's Rehearsal**  
**h Wednesday Service**

**March 6**  
**oir rehearsal**

**March 11**  
**CA**

**March 13**  
**Club, reading "Conclave" by Robert Harris**  
**chmark Service**  
**oir Rehearsal**

**Supper Collections:**  
**Global Refuge**  
**HARRT**  
**Cruzando Fronteras**  
**Energy Share**  
**Lutheran Social Services**

**Use of Greater Helena**, Comfort Food Challenge on Sunday **March 23rd from 3:00-5:00 PM** at the Lewis and Clark Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per family. In person tickets are available at the church office, Birds & Beasley's, the Blackfoot River Brewing Co., and the Montana State Fair. For more information contact Al Rake, [randalrake@gmail.com](mailto:randalrake@gmail.com).

### **August 11-15**

Bring things up this year and have moved our annual VBS week to August! Be on the lookout for new themes, our theme, and other fun activities associated with the week!

**Ulgenes** will lead a six hour Bible workshop using a manual called *See Through The Scriptures* on **March 29 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**. The cost of the manual for the workshop will be \$15.00. If you have 15 or more participants can order a workbook ( not mandatory) that can be used for personal use in the workshop. Free or loaner manuals will be available for those who request one. There will be sandwiches for lunch for purchase.

Reading the Bible can be daunting. *See Through The Scriptures* makes the Bible more accessible by going step by step through the entire biblical narrative, especially the Old Testament, putting it in its historical context. 44 full color teaching graphics are used to help people grasp and remember key concepts of the Bible, especially the three major covenants in the Old Testament and how the New Testament fulfills those covenants. *See Through the Scriptures* is part of the Crossways series created and authored by Pastor Harry Wendt.

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

The Bible workshop and materials will begin February 16. You can register by calling Orla at 406-442-7842 or email at [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org) . You can also email Pastor Orla at [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org) or [loriw@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:loriw@ourredeemerlives.org) to sign up, ask questions or get information. Sorry no zoom or streaming available. If you are interested in attending this exciting Bible workshop on March 29 as part of your Lenten journey, please bring a friend. It will change your understanding and knowledge of the Bible and it will

### **ward", Richard Rohr**

and loving your golden years, or maybe not? The 2nd half of life is more than getting old. We'll be offering insights in a six-week discussion based on Richard Rohr's book *Imaginal Piety* for the "Two Halves of Life" Our first gathering is on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 PM at Redeemers Lutheran Church, 3580 Benton Ave. We'll have 6 gatherings, finishing with a prayer service with Fr. Dan Shea and Charlotte Neall. The book is available on Amazon. Both 2019 and 2020 editions are appropriate. A head count will be helpful. Call or text Fr. Dan 406 442 7842

an Vennes

**Server:**

Gail Vennes, Lorrie Vennes, Lee Rhodes, Tami

Frey

**Server Point:** Angela Conley

**Music:** Gretchen Munding

**Organist:** Bing Crosby

Gayle Grimsrud, Mildred Twingley,

pastorkeith@hel

**Choir Director/Music**

connieconley

**Youth and Family**

Gretch

youthandfamily@hel

C

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saintjohns@hel

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: 406-459-4376 —

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