

Order of Service
Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany
February 23, 2025

Prelude

“Aria”

Flor Peeters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barb Huitema

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

SONG OF CENTERING

“In Love You Summon”

gently

In love you sum - mon, in love I fol - low, liv - ing to - day for
 your to - mor - row. Christ to re - lease me, Christ to en -
 - fold me, Christ to re - strain me, Christ to up - hold me.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Liturgist: Come, beloved let us worship the God, who says, "Fear Not".

People: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

Liturgist: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

People: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

Liturgist: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

People: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

Liturgist: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

Prayer:

Holy Love, God of new beginnings, soften our hearts and still our minds into your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives. Gift us with the renewing energy of your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of your blessing, for the good of the world. In your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

NCH#17

Descant

4 To you. God, day af-ter day, earth in

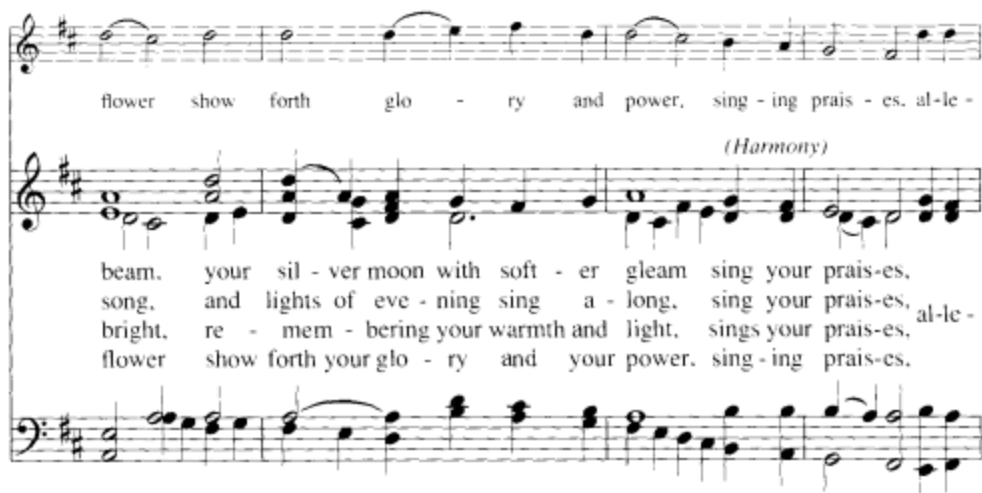
Unison

1 To you. O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you. O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

ev - ery way sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant



flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al - le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al - le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al - le -
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

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

5 Now we who are of ten-der heart,
 for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our part,
 sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 To you we lift our pain and care,
 re-ceive the bur-dens that we bear,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen-tle death
 pre-pares to hush our fi-nal breath,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ goes be-fore us to re-new
 the way that leads us home to you.
 Hear our prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading

The end of the Joseph story saga: Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Liturgist

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.

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. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.

And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Silence is Observed

ALL: Holy Spirit, we confess that at times we do not make space for all that you wish to do in our lives and church. We invite you in this moment of remembrance to fill us with all the fullness of Christ so that we might be marked by your abundant fruit. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice! You are loved! Amen.

BLESSING OF THE ELEMENTS

One: God be with you!

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray....

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Jesus Took the Bread"

NCH#343

Unison D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost; that is when we're healed.
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Day By Day"

Mark Schweizer

CHILDREN'S BLESSING DISMISSAL

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:27-38

But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 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. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. 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. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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.”

SERMON

Living Large – Love and Mercy

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Your Ways Are Not Our Own”

NCH#170

1 Your ways are not our own, O gra-cious God most high,
 2 Christ teach-es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,
 3 Yet, we can-not ex-cuse a-buse in an-y form,
 4 How shall we show your love, your par-don to be-lieve?
 5 For-give-ness is our joy, re-ceive-ing, giv-ing, too.

Yet we would fol-low in your paths and on your love re-ly.
 To turn the oth-er cheek when struck, at-tack-ers to dis-arm.
 For all are chil-dren of your care, and love must be our norm.
 You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re-ceive.
 Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Barb Huitema

ALL:

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; and 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.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Doxology

All crea-tures lift your prais-es high! Praise God in earth and sea and sky;

in one great chor-us, all your days. Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spi-rit praise. A-men.

CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist: Go out into the world and trust in the faithfulness of God. Speak truth. Embody compassion. Live simply: Love recklessly. Transform the world through the power of hope.

People: We go in peace to love and serve God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

SONG OF PARTING

“God , When Human Bonds Are Broken”

1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 Use us as a means of bless-ing; make us stron-ger, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Franz Joseph Haydn, Arr. D. Hustad