

Sunday, February 24, 2019  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

**PRELUDE**

***“Wondrous Love”***

Gregg Sewell

**\*GATHERING SONG**

***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”***

**ELW 733**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

***Refrain***

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Refrain***

**\*GREETING**

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

**G** **And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

pg. 148

**P** *Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

**G** **Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:**

have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *O Lord Jesus,*

**G** 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. Amen!

**ANTHEM**

*“Prayer of St. Francis”*

Allen Pote

Chancel Choir

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

*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.*

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve 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 a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <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 all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

**Reflection**

*If you don’t already know the story of Joseph (and even if you do), you might want to read Joseph’s story in Genesis 37, 39-50. What did Joseph’s brothers do to him? (See Genesis 37:12-36) What happened to Joseph there? When a famine brings his brothers to Joseph, what does he do? (Genesis 42-44) Our text today is what happens when Joseph reveals himself to his*

brothers. What does he say to them? (verses 3 and following) Who does he “blame” for being sold into slavery and the subsequent events? (verses 5-8) How does he respond to the needs of his family? (verses 9-11) How are Joseph and his brothers reconciled? (verse 15) How do you think you would react in such a situation? I can tell you, for me, probably not like Joseph. I love my sisters dearly, but I still can feel in the pit of my stomach how I felt when I was about 10 and my sister said something that made me so mad I wanted to hit her—and I think I did, and got in trouble for it. It felt to me like she was the trouble maker, but I got punished. I’m pretty sure we’ve forgiven each other—I’m not even sure she knew I needed to forgive her. But if my entire life was betrayed by my sister—or if I had done something that betrayed my sister—I’m not sure I could forgive or even ask for forgiveness. Joseph is a tough model to follow! What do you think?

### **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

<sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by | evildoers;

do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**

<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup>**Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart’s desire.**

<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

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

<sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

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

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup>**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they seek refuge.

### **Reflection**

*I wonder if this psalm is based on the story of Joseph, although there’s enough evil done to others in the Bible that there are many stories of those who have been betrayed by evildoers. Most of us can think of someone who has done evil to us. What is the psalmist’s advice if you are someone who has been the victim of an evildoer? (verse 1) Why should we not be jealous of those who do wrong? (verse 2) What should we do instead? (verses 3-7) We may*

*have to wait (verse 7), but eventually what will happen? (verses 9-11) It's the waiting that is hard! In the midst of feeling the rage that comes from the provocation of being mistreated, it's hard to wait for the Lord's vindication. How do you experience the waiting? How is the Lord your stronghold in the time of trouble? (verses 39-40)*

## **SECOND READING**

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

*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.*

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

<sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, 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. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became 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 dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>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.

### **Reflection**

*We continue to read what Paul says to the Corinthian Christians about the resurrection. Possibly verse 35 is a question that Paul encountered from those who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. How does he answer that question? (verses 36-38) Some seeds look like what they will become—like beans or peas. Others, like zinnias or marigolds or maple seeds, do not at all resemble what they will become. What does Paul say about the body? He likens this to the resurrection of the dead. (verses 42-44) What is "perishable"? Why do we bury (or cremate) those who die? What does Paul say about the bodies of those who are resurrected? (verses 45-49) We on earth have the image of someone of dust. What will our heavenly bodies be like? Is it possible for us to bear the image of the imperishable without dying first? (verse 50) What do you think this means?*

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**Give the glory**

**and the honor**

**to the Lord! (repeat)**

**\*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 to enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless 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 ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“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 even 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, 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. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, 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.”

**Reflection**

*What does Jesus tell us to do in this text? (verses 27-31) How do you do this? How is it possible? Who is your enemy? Jesus compares this way of acting with that of sinners. (verses 32-34) If I'm very honest, I sometimes have a hard time loving those who love me! And all the rest. I think twice (or more) about lending to someone I am pretty sure will pay me back. I don't even live up to the alternative to loving my enemies. Another question that this text raises for me is, who sees me as an enemy that I'm not even aware of? I'm pretty open about my political opinions, and I'm sure that there are some who do not agree with me. Might they see me as an enemy? What about someone who doesn't believe that women should be allowed to be ordained. Do they see me as an enemy? In the scheme of things, in our nation and our world, I am a woman of privilege (white, educated, older, well-to-do....) I am often not even aware of privileges I take for granted. While I pray that I will be able to love my enemies and be merciful to those who wrong me, maybe even more I need to pray that the Most High will be kind to me and those who I wrong (even without meaning to) will be merciful to me. What do you think?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

**“For Giving Love”**

Rev. Roger Lenander

**SONG OF THE DAY**

**“Jesus, the Light of the World”**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Jesus, the Light of the world;  
“Glory to the newborn King,”  
Jesus, the Light of the world.**

***Refrain***

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light,  
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright.  
Shine all around us by day and night,  
Jesus, the Light of the world.

Joyful, all you nations, rise,  
Jesus, the Light of the world;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Jesus, the Light of the world;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Jesus, the Light of the world;  
hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Jesus, the Light of the world. *Refrain*

**\*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!

**\*PRAYER SONG**

***“Hear Our Prayer”***

**ELW 178**

*sing twice before the prayer and once after the prayer*

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
peace to all people, hope for each soul.  
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those in need. For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick *especially Roxanna, Linda, Dorothy, Trina, Linda, Elaine, Lisa and her baby Lara, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds).* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**G** **And also with you!**

**Refrain**

Jesu, Jesu,  
fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,  
varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*

These are the ones we will serve,  
these are the ones we will love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet:  
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE***“Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”*

ELW 182

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *God of all creation,*

**C** all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

**\*DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** And also 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 our thanks and praise.

**\*PREFACE**

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *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.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** *Gathered together in one baptism, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**C** **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**

**P** *Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.*

**\*BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *We thank you, O God,*

**C** **that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare,  
the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive  
free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory  
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *The God of glory dwell in you richly,  
name you beloved,  
and shine brightly on your path;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the  $\text{I}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.*

**C** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*"God Is Good All the Time"*

***Refrain***

God is good all the time  
He put a song of praise  
In this heart of mine  
God is good all the time  
Through the darkest night  
His light will shine  
God is good God is good  
All the time

If you're walkin' through the valley  
And there are shadows all around  
Do not fear He will guide you  
He will keep you safe and sound  
'Cause He has promised to never leave you  
Nor forsake you and His Word is true *Refrain*

We were sinners so unworthy  
Still for us He chose to die  
Filled us with His Holy Spirit  
Now we can stand and testify  
That His love is everlasting  
And His mercies they will never end *Refrain*

**Bridge**

Though I may not understand  
All the plans You have for me  
My life is in Your hands  
And through the eyes of faith  
I can clearly see *Refrain*

**Ending**

God is good He's so good  
God is good He's so good  
God is good He's so good all the time

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** *Go in peace. Christ is your light.*

**G** **Thanks be to God!**