

# Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

## Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 12, 2023

*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit,  
and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.*



*Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*

## Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “Min själ och sinne, låt Gud råda (Sv. ps. 239)”

*Let, O My Soul, Thy God Direct Thee*

Setting by Oskar Lindberg

Sophie Martinez, organ

**Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 819

“Come, All You People”

**\*Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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.

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.**

**\*Canticle of Praise** — *see Yellow Supplement - sing Stanza 1 only*

**\*Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

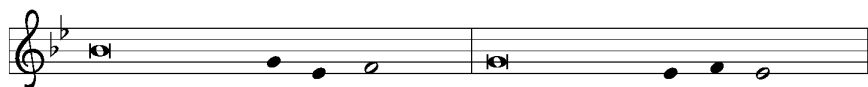
# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy — Deuteronomy 30:15-20

[Moses said to the people:] See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

## Psalm 119:1-8 — *sung responsively by verse*



Happy are they whose | way is blameless,  
who follow the teaching | of the Lord!

**Happy are they who observe | your decrees**  
**and seek you with | all their hearts,**  
who never do | any wrong,  
but always walk | in your ways.

**You laid down | your commandments,**  
**that we should | fully keep them.**

Oh, that my ways were made | so direct  
that I might | keep your statutes!

**Then I should not be | put to shame,**  
**when I regard all | your commandments.**

I will thank you with | a true heart,  
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.

**I will | keep your statutes;**  
**do not utter- | ly forsake me.**

## A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians — 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

\***Gospel Acclamation** — *see Yellow Supplement, refrain only (sung twice)*

**\*Gospel — Matthew 5:21-37**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 5th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn —**

“We Thank You, God, For Values”  
Sung to the tune AURELIA

**1. We thank you, God, for values  
that guide us day by day —  
that help us learn to follow  
your faithful, loving way.  
We thank you, too, for Scout Troops —  
where youth are taught to be  
mature and moral leaders  
in each community.**

**2. For Scouts earn trust from others;  
they're loyal to the end.  
They're helpful, friendly, courteous  
to stranger and to friend.  
They're kind and they're obedient,  
they're cheerful, thrifty, too;  
They're brave and clean and reverent  
in all they try to do.**

**3. We thank you, God, for values  
that send our youth outdoors  
for hiking and canoeing,  
for cook-outs and S'-mores.  
As youth go out exploring,  
they learn creation's worth.  
They care for what you've given —  
the water, sky and earth.**

**4. We thank you, God, for values  
that make our country great:  
for love that dares to welcome,  
for love that conquers hate.  
We thank you, God, for Scouting —  
for youth and leaders, too,  
who seek to serve their country  
by first obeying you.**

## \*Installation of Leaders in the Congregation

The following people have been elected to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these siblings in Christ will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Mary Spear, Nancy Timm, Patric Pehrson and Bonnie Pettis

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation:

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your siblings in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

*Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

*The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Those being installed face the presiding minister.*

I now declare you installed as Council Officers of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. Amen.

## \*Prayers of Intercession

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarreling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*  
"Aurelia"

Setting by Jan Bender

# Sharing the Meal

\***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — *see Yellow Supplement*

\***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — *see Yellow Supplement*

## \***Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

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.

To our God of true justice, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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**

Here is the table set for our special meal. The bread, the wine, prepared and presented. Ready to be served and shared. We remember Jesus sharing a meal like this with his disciples, his friends. He included everyone, those he could trust and those he could not trust. Today we are his disciples, his friends. Each one of us is welcome. How amazing it is to be loved and wanted even when we have not been perfect. How wonderful it is to be included as we are.

## Distribution of Communion

### Communion Canticle — no. 1056, from *All Creation Sings*

“God Bless to Us Our Bread”



Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en  
God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia, a los que tien - en  
hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are

pan. Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan.  
fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

Hymn — no. 612

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

### Communion Blessing and Prayer

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

## Departing to Serve God’s World

### Announcements

\*Sending Hymn — no. 836

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

### \*Benediction

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor’s rod  
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

### \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude — “Festival Postlude”

Robert J. Hughes  
Sophie Martinez, organ

### Acknowledgements

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Brett Peterson, Malcolm McHugh  
Acolytes: Paul Szbynski

Greeters: Amelia Staples, Sam Szbynski  
Reader: Sam Sybinski  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson  
Musicians: Sophie Martinez, GAC Music Scholar

Communion Preparers: Carol Solberg & Betty Thompson  
Communion Servers: John Malm, Sharon Malm, Sharon Domeier  
Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart  
Special Helpers: Boy Scouts Troop

### Announcements

- After worship today, you are invited to join Pr. Chris in the Dining Hall as we continue our Bible study on *Making Sense of Martin Luther*. Please join us!
- Also following worship today, the Green Committee will be gathering signatures as part of a letter writing campaign to start a conversation regarding curbside composting in the City of St. Peter.
- FLC will be collecting LED light bulbs for the month of February for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf! Please drop them off in the office.
- A reminder that the Minnesota River Valley Conference Assembly is next Sunday, Feb. 19th, starting at 2:00pm at Bernadotte Lutheran Church.
- Pastor Chris will be leading a class for our First & Second Graders preparing to receive their first Holy Communion next Sunday, Feb. 19th starting at 6:30pm in the Dining Hall. The other classes in this series will be on March 5th and March 19th.
- For the month of February FLC will receive double the usual amount from our Kwik Trip Card program. Please consider purchasing your gas in advance. This is an excellent passive source of income to the church that is no additional cost to you or the church to participate in this program.
- Flowers for the Altar today are given by Karen Smithers in honor of the diligent members of the Finance and Stewardship committees.

### Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson and Margie Nelson.
- We pray for Karen Smithers, who is recovering from hip surgery.
- We pray for Margie Nelsen who is beginning treatment for cancer.
- We pray for Shirley Storkson, Shanon Nowell's mother-in-law, who is recovering from a broken hip.
- We pray for Nancy Thorkelson's mom Rita Ogren as she is currently dealing with multiple health concerns.
- We pray for healing for all who are sick, for the families of the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria and for peace throughout our country and around the world.