

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 13, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

During the middle weeks of the winter season, many homes receive catalogs in the mail from seed and nursery companies that are filled with pictures of beautiful plants and trees. It is easy to project what we see in those catalogs into our own yards and gardens. But before we do any ordering, we must consider whether we can provide settings in which those plants and trees can flourish. In both the Old Testament Reading and the Psalm of the Day, we are given images not only of plants and trees that flourish, but of people who flourish—people with faith in the Lord Jesus, who bring blessings in every season.

PRELUDE “I Am the Vine” -Talbot

HYMN “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” *LSB* 901

1 Open now thy gates of beauty;
 Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
 Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessèd is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

2 Gracious God, I come before Thee;
 Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
 There a heav’n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

3 Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
 Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
 Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

4 Thou my faith increase and quicken;
 Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howsoe’er temptations thicken;
 May Thy Word still o’er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
 Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
 While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.
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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 30:10; 43:3; Proverbs 4:18; Isaiah 2:5b*

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!

People: O LORD, be my helper.

Pastor: Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;

People: let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!

Pastor: The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,

People: which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Assured of God's great mercy, let us confess together that we, by our darkened, sinful nature, are estranged from God, and by our thoughts, words, and deeds have sinned and deserve His condemnation now and eternally.

People: Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. Although we deserve Your just punishment, we ask for Your unmerited blessing. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may be made bright by Your presence in our lives, joyfully serving You in time and through eternity.

Pastor: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 119:1–2, 4–5; antiphon: v. 2*

Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart... Blessèd are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.** Blessèd are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

HYMN OF PRAISE "Beautiful Savior" *LSB 537*

1 Beautiful Savior,
 King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
 Truly I'd love Thee,
 Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
 Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
 Jesus is fairer,
 Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!
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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, You bless the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the persecuted. Mercifully hear the prayers of Your people when they call upon You, and give us faith to believe Your kingdom belongs to the humble of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 17:5–8* (The man who trusts the Lord is blessed.) Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 1*

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:12–20* (Paul teaches about the resurrection of the dead.) Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we

have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

VERSE *Luke 6:23a*

Pastor: Alleluia. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

People: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 6:17–26* (Jesus preaches on the mountainside by the Sea of Galilee.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus] came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” *LSB* 394

SERMON *Luke 6:20–23* “Blessed, or cursed?”

- I. Happiness is....
 - What would you say *happiness* is? Be honest.
- II. “Blessed are the poor....” v. 20
 - What were Luther’s last words?
 - Why is correct on this?
 - What is the Kingdom of God?
- III. “Blessed are you who are *hungry*....” v. 21a
 - What kind of hungers can we have?
 - What is “now/not yet?”
- IV. “Blessed are you who weep *now*....” v. 21b
 - What does weeping indicate?

- What does *laugh* point to?
- V. “Blessed are you when people *hate you*....” v. 22-23
- Who is Polycarp?
 - Who embodies this text?

How would you answer the following question: “Happiness is...” Charles Schulz famously made a series of books called *Happiness is...* For Linus, “Happiness is...a warm blanket.” For Snoopy, “Happiness is...a full dish of food.” For Woodstock, “Happiness is...getting together with friends.” How would you answer that question? “Happiness is....what?” Is it a destination with loved ones, like Florida or Disneyland? Is it your favorite meal, or a cup of coffee in hand with a great book? Is it no worries and relaxation? Being surrounded by your family and friends? I would suspect that most answers would have these elements, or ones like them. In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks about being “blessed” or “happy.” But, this “happiness” is different from what our world calls “happy” or “blessed.” For did anyone answer “Happiness is...” with poverty? How about hunger? Was sadness and loss a choice? People hating you and mistreating you? No one, right? Jesus says the poor, hungry, weeping, and hated are blessed! How can that be? What is He talking about? The blessings that Jesus speaks about are centered in His cross and empty tomb, His saving work. This morning, with His beatitudes, Jesus invites us to see blessing in the midst of woe, to see our greatest challenges and pains confronted, and lived through, in Him. He invites us to see them in a different light and perspective through Him.

He says, **“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”** On February 4, 1546, Martin Luther was called to the town of Eisleben to mediate a dispute between two brothers who were both counts of Mansfeld. At this time in his life, Luther’s health was declining, and it only got worse when he got to Eisleben. On February 17, his health really began to spiral, and he went to bed quite ill. He prayed Psalm 31:6, which was a common deathbed Scripture. A little while later at 1:00 a.m., he woke up from another heart attack, and had the chills. People thought he was improving, but that was not the case. Given his experience, he knew death was coming, saying, “It is the cold sweat of death. I will give up the spirit because my illness is getting worse.” He told the people around his deathbed that “I will go in peace and joy. Amen.” And repeated Psalm 31:6 a few more times, and then was silent. He affirmed the faith he taught, and died a little while later at 3:00 a.m. As they were doing the funeral preparations, they found a scrap of paper on him that contains the last words he ever wrote. What were they? “We are beggars before God. This is true.”

He is right, isn’t he? Spiritually, we are broke and impoverished before God. Our own righteousness counts as nothing and are like polluted and filthy rags before Him. Our good works are meager, and cannot make a dent in what we would owe God. Even outwardly, earthly, we are broke, too. Our own riches, fame, importance, value, potential, talents, connections, relationships do nothing before God. We can bring nothing to the table in terms of our relationship with God. We have nothing, and can offer nothing. However, it is precisely when we have nothing before God that we get everything from Him. God loves to give; we are beggars, afterall.

Jesus has news for us, for those who depend on Him through faith. He says the Kingdom of God is ours, *now*. It is not something we receive later, but something that we receive now, with its gifts and blessings. What is the Kingdom of God? It is the rule and reign of God in the life of a believer. It is where His work is being done in us, people being transformed by His grace and Holy Spirit to be more loving, generous, gracious, and serving. It is a life in His kingdom, lived with His amazing grace, everlasting love, unmerited goodness, and unfailing mercy. Receiving the kingdom isn’t based on what we have, whether outwardly, or spiritually. Receiving the kingdom isn’t based on amounts: whether that is money, status, fame, or stuff. It is based on what Jesus has done for us: His death and resurrection.

Our world sees poverty as a bad thing, and pitiful state. It is never fun to struggle to make ends meet, or to not have enough. It is terrible to worry about if things will get better, or turn around. Jesus says that in the midst of all that, we have the Kingdom. He says that when we have nothing, *nothing before God, and even in the world*, that we have *everything*: the Kingdom. **“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”**

He continues. **“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.”** We are all hungry, aren’t we? We all long for fullness, and completeness. It can be real hunger, or a relational one for love and companionship. We can feel an emotional hunger, that longing for love, calmness, happiness, and security. We can have that longing of the heart, a spiritual hunger, whether that is a hunger for God and His Word, or that the world would experience the end of sin and its effects. The ongoing human problem is that once you fill these things, they will dwindle and deplete. The challenge is that it is hard to keep filling them up because we keep drawing on them on a daily basis. They never stay to the brim; eventually, that stomach will growl again!

But, to this, Jesus says, **“You shall be satisfied.”** How does that future satisfaction fill our current hungering? We call this tension “now/not yet.” Jesus says we have the Kingdom of God. We enjoy life in the Kingdom of God *now* with its promises and blessings, but we will one day experience the culmination of it in the life to come. One day, all our hungering will be satisfied: physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual; but not here. But, you know what? God doesn’t leave us empty handed and depleted. He fills and satisfies us now, however incomplete it might be. And so we look forward to that future filling and draw on that fullness, *now*. **“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.”**

The third beatitude is this: **“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”** Weeping involves pain, loss, and disappointment. It is the two dreaded words: “what if?” “What if?” How would you fill-in that blank? What if they never got sick? What if I got that job? What if they said yes? What if I didn’t say that? It’s the words, “could have been,” “should have been,” “would have been.” Weeping can be a regret and remorse over sin. But Jesus says that in the midst of these pains that we are blessed: **“you shall laugh.”**

In the midst of pain, loss, disappointment, regret, and remorse, laughing can seem a million miles away. Laughing suggests better times, relief, or a different scenario. Laughing can seem like yesterday: something that is never coming back. But, *we will laugh*; we will be comforted; joy will come, and hope will dawn. Remember, “now, not yet.” The full comfort, the full laughter, is not yet, but Jesus comforts us here, though. As Psalm 46:1 says, **“God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.”** Paul proclaims in 2 Corinthians, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ, we share abundantly in comfort, too.”** Our Lord strengthens, preserves, cheers, and comforts us as we sojourn here below. The comfort He gives us pours into others; we share it. He forgives us of our sin when we weep and repent over it; He comforts us with the Gospel. *We will laugh.* **“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”**

Jesus finishes by saying, **“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!”** Persecution instead of acceptance. Hatred instead of acclamation. Exclusion and insult instead of praise. This is the reaction of a sinful world to Jesus and His people. The cross of Jesus casts its shadow on all who follow him. A man named Polycarp knew this well.

Polycarp was an early church father who was the bishop of Smyrna. He studied under the feet of John the Apostle. On Easter in 155 A. D., Polycarp was arrested. Threatened with death, he was ordered to curse Jesus to save his life. He refused to, and gives one of my favorite quotes of all-time: “Six and eighty years have I served him, and He has done me nothing but good. How can I curse my him, my Lord and my Savior?” Polycarp was later burned to death because he refused to renounce his faith. Being faith until death, he received the crown of life that Jesus had won for him. Jesus says, **“Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”** It doesn’t seem like a blessing when you are persecuted, reviled, or insulted because of Jesus. However, Jesus reminds us that when we have the Kingdom of God *now*, with all its gifts and blessings. Nothing can change that at all. It gives us perspective and hope when facing these things.

As Jesus tells us these upside-down, and counter cultural blessings, we see that He actually embodies *them all, and is the key to them*. He became poor and nothing so that we could be in the Kingdom. The One Who opens His hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing felt a rumbling stomach and the pain of longing. He wept over Lazarus and Jerusalem, and knew the ting of pain and disappointment so that we could one day laugh in the Kingdom to come where we will know no more pain and loss. He was hated, excluded,

reviled, and seen as the ultimate evil so we could have a reward in Heaven: life eternal though Him, won by His cross and resurrection.

Happiness is...what? Being blessed is....being blessed is being in Jesus , despite what the devil and world might throw our way. Blessed is the One Who is in Christ Jesus. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING "Cast Down Your Cares" -Talbot

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

For meditation, from Luther's Small Catechism, The Lord's Prayer:

The Second Petition, "Thy kingdom come." What does this mean? The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also. How is this done? The kingdom of God comes to us when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life, here in time and hereafter in eternity.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy holy holy Lord

God of power and might

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is he who comes

In the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for the powerful Word and the Means of Grace through which You come among us to bless us. Grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we receive this blessed food and are strengthened and sustained by it, grant that our faith toward You and our fervent love for one another increase throughout our lives until at last we are granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away

All the sin of the world

Oh Lamb of God have mercy on us

And grant to us your peace

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Blest Are They” *LSB* 982

1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
They shall be consoled. Refrain

ref Rejoice and be glad!
Blessèd are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God.

2 Blest are they, the lowly ones;
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
They shall have their fill. Refrain

3 Blest are they who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart;
They shall see God! Refrain

4 Blest are they who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
The glory of God is theirs. Refrain

5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
All because of Me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
Shine for all to see. Refrain

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“Thy Word” *LSB* 973

ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

1 When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,
Still You’re there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. Refrain

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. Refrain

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BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. God, the gracious giver of all blessings, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church.

Sanctify us by the working of Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works You desire us to do; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" *LSB 918*

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
 Pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
 Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 Feed me till I want no more;
 Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
 Whence the healing stream doth flow;

Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
 Be Thou still my strength and shield;
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 Bid my anxious fears subside;

Death of death and hell's destruction,
 Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to Thee;
 I will ever give to Thee.

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POSTLUDE "I Will Bring You Home" -Card

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 6:20-21 – “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.”* The Beatitudes are largely about emptiness. If you’re poor, your pockets are empty. If you are hungry, your stomach is empty. If you are mourning, there’s an emptiness in your heart that used to be filled with the presence of a loved one. Jesus assures us in each case that the Lord will fill our emptiness. That assurance gives us not only peace, but also courage to follow the Lord faithfully.

JEENA’S BUSINESS is now open! You can visit Namaste Brows & Boutique at 1718B Lexington Ave N in Roseville. Brochures are available in the office. On Saturday, February 19 everyone is welcome to come for an open house from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. There will be a prayer at 10 a.m. and refreshments throughout the day.

www.namastebrowsandboutique.com

2021 GIVING STATEMENTS: You will receive your contribution statement in the mail if your total contribution amount for 2021 is \$250 or more. Statements will be mailed no later than January 31. If your contribution to Emmaus was less than \$250, you did not receive the statement by early February, or you need a replacement copy of your statement please either leave a message on the Emmaus church phone or call Nancy W. and I will get one sent to you as soon as possible.

EMMAUS GENERATIONS: The Fellowship Committee has decided not to host Emmaus Generations in February due to current rates of illness in our area. Please watch for future dates.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Like Riding a Bike” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Law and Gospel are the two reins of Jesus’ teaching that express His care for who we are now and His conviction about the people we will become. (Luke 6: 20-49)