



**OUR WORSHIP TODAY, Feb 24th, Last Sunday of Epiphany
GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME**

Pre-Service Music, Welcome, and Announcements

CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in this time of Epiphany, we approach your altar with love for You and our concern for the price you paid for us on the cross. We realize the difficulties that we face, and we confess the poor job we have done with our response to your sacrifice. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus on His cross, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the authority of Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Alleluia and Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: 21 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison):

Our Father in Heaven, help us to revere the miracle of Your resurrection of our our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have died with Him, and when the time comes, we will rise with Him as He teaches us in scripture.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which God has called us. Alleluia and Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:3-15 (ESV)

And 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.

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near.

And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And 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 tarry.

You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13 (ESV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Glory be to Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

*(Recited whole verse by whole verse – Congregation in **Bold**)*

EPISTLE LESSON: 1st Corinthians 15:21-42 (ESV)

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all

in all.

Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf? Why are we in danger every hour?

I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

The Resurrection Body

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

You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Please rise for the Alleluia.

ALLELUIA: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38 (ESV)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to you O Lord

Love Your Enemies

"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the

ungrateful and the evil.

Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you oh Christ!

SERMON "Of the Father's Love Begotten" - **Pastor Steve Dygert + STS**

SERMON HYMN: 35 Oh Bless the Lord My Soul

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed ©

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; [God of God], Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. "Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

"And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen."

THE OFFERING: Offertory – 86 Of the Father's Love Begotten – Pr. Steve

As the offering is brought forward, we will sing the Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

PRAYERS OF PRAISE:

*Let us Pray: (Prayer Response) Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our prayer.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER, PREPARATION OF THE TABLE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, THE DISTRIBUTION, THE COMMUNION BLESSING :

SENDING HYMN: 20 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

THE AARONIC BENEDICTION

Congregational Song, **Let There Be Peace on Earth**

