

Prince of Peace
906 North Main St. Brockton, Massachusetts
508-586-7975

Sunday February 20, 2022

Holy Communion

The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany



Pictures Courtesy of Free Bible Images

"I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life." Genesis 45.4-5

Prelude

Welcome

Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to "love your enemies." Some men have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. Others, like the philosopher Nietzsche, contend that Jesus' exhortation to love one's enemies is testimony to the fact that the Christian ethic is designed for the weak and the cowardly, and not for the strong and courageous. Jesus, they say, was an impractical idealist. But upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern man is traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction and damnation. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, the command to love one's enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives. —Martin Luther King Jr. [Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963), 47-48.]

Prayer

Call to Worship *(from The Song of Light of St. Ephrem):*

The Light of the just and joy of the upright is Christ Jesus our Lord.

Begotten of the Father, he manifested himself to us.

He came to rescue us from darkness

and to fill us with the radiance of his light.

Day is dawning upon us;

the power of darkness is fading away.

From the true Light there arises for us

the light which illumines our darkened eyes.

His glory shines upon the world and enlightens the very depths of the abyss.

What God does endures forever. God has done it so that all should stand in awe before him. Amen.

Time for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

who creates us,

redeems us,

and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.

We have turned our faces away from your glory

when it did not appear as we expected.

We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves.

We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome.

Accept our repentance for the things we have done

and the things we have left undone.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe

in the glory of your Son born among us,

and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,
Last time to coda ☩

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
 where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re 1

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda

loved as to love with all my soul.

☩ Coda

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

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

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, 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

The Word

Children's Moment

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph 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.

⁴Then 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. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For 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. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So 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. ⁹Hurry 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. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹I 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.' " ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good;

dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

**⁴Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

**⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.**

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

**⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

**⁸Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

**⁹For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.**

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

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

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

**⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.**

Gospel Greeting: (start quietly...)

Alleluia, Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If 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. ³⁵But 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. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

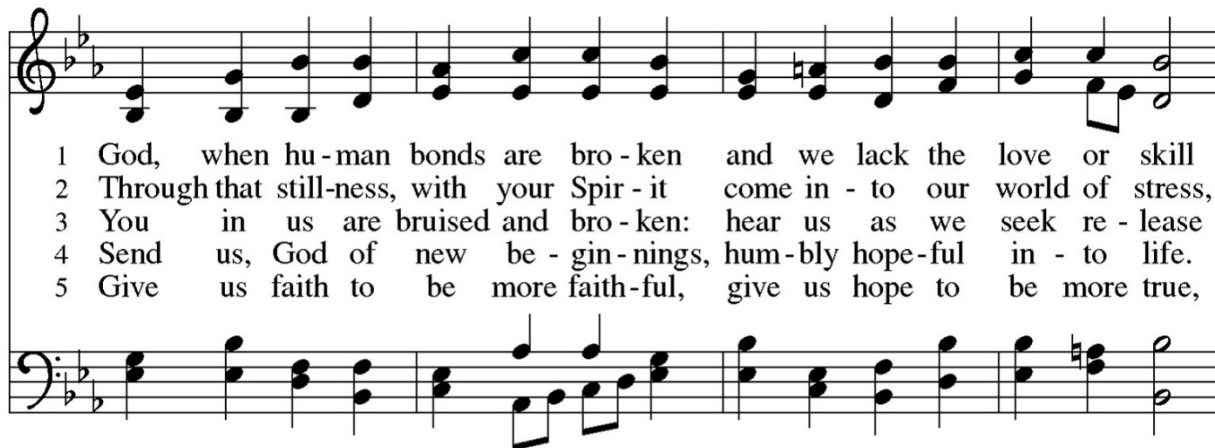
³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Gospel Greeting: (start quietly...)

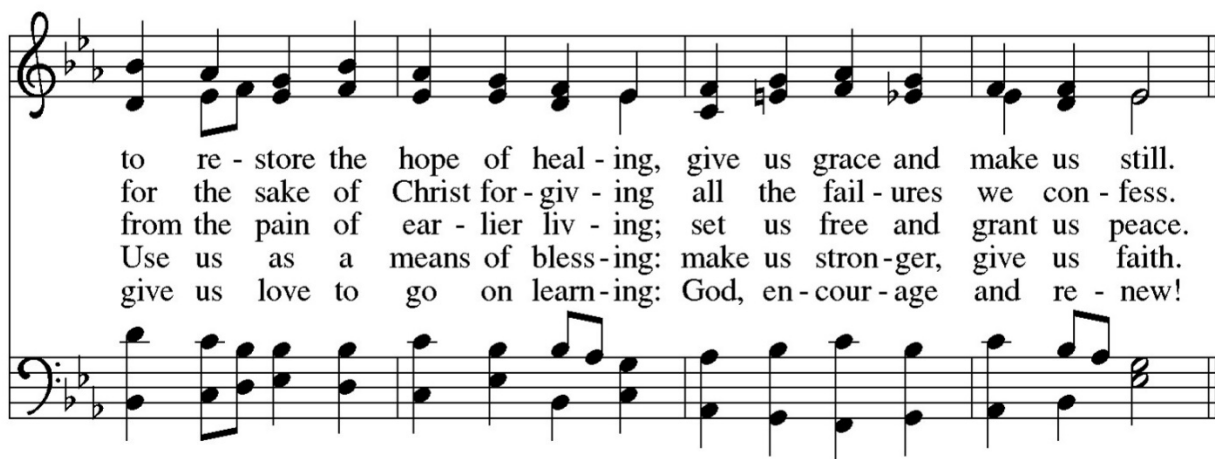
Alleluia, Alleluia, **Alleluia!**

Message

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!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

The Peace

Announcements

--Thirsty Thursday theme: Transformed! Let there be light! Pictures to prandall22@gmail.com

--Weds. Bible Study 10 AM- join us on Facebook live

--the Lunch Project is back! Next Sunday February 27

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings

and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table,

nourish us with this heavenly food,

and prepare us to carry your love

to a hungry world,

in the name of Christ our light.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Holy Communion

We, who are many, are one body, as we share this one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God! **Thanks be to God!**

(Please come forward as you are able to the table of the Lord. We share in communion as household groups or individuals, one on each side of the communion table.)

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

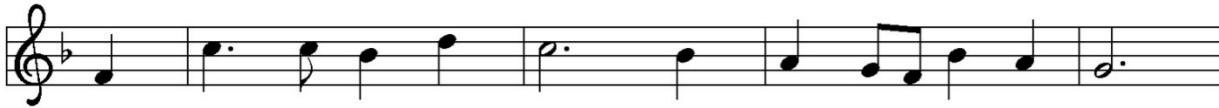
Prayer after Communion:

**We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news
and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace
in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Blessing

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,
who rejoices over you,
and who calls you by name,
bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.
Amen.

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: CHRISTPRAISE RAY, Carol Doran, b. 1936

Text and music from *New Hymns for the Lectionary*, © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

Dismissal

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to Evelyn Reuben and our friends at First for printing this bulletin!

Liturgical music copyright 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under One license number A-700164. All rights reserved. Liturgical texts are reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress; Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved; . www.ccli.com CCLI copyright license #11255979 CCLI streaming license # CSPPL073911 CCLI Song # 22324 , also www.worshipdesignstudios for image, music, and prayers. Hymns/songs licensed under OneLicense number A-700164 and CCLI license #11255979