

# **REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**4955 W. 158<sup>TH</sup> Street Oak Forest, IL 60452**

**708-687-2432**

## **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Feb. 20, 2022**

**9:30 A.M.**

The cost of our Bulletin cover is donated by  
**McKENZIE FUNERAL HOME**

**15618 Cicero Avenue Oak Forest, Illinois (708) 687-2990**

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**Pastor Soren Flessen**

**Organist/ Piano~ Amy Ogarek**

**Office Administrator~ Deb Frawley**

**Music Coordinator~ Jan Strojny**

**Ministers- The People of Redeemer's**

LECTOR: Bonnie Trella

**Mark your calendars:**

- Feb. 23~ Council Meeting 7pm
- March 2~ Ash Wednesday worship 7pm
- March 9~ Midweek Lenten worship 7pm
- March 12~ Change your clocks forward before going to bed
- March 20~ Spring is here!!



*The Altar Flowers  
are given today by  
the Trellas,  
in celebration of  
Pam's birthday!*



**God's Grace  
Covers Me**

*I am...*

**G**od's  
**R**edeemed  
**A**ccepted  
**C**hosen  
**E**xpression

*...of love.*

*There are numerous dates available on the flower chart in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring a week to celebrate an occasion or to memorialize a loved one. The cost is \$26 for 2 beautiful bouquets that are available right after worship to take home.*

**Communion Song:**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*Blessing*

P: May the body and blood of our living, risen Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

*Prayer after Communion*

P: 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*

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

**Sending Song:**

**“Go Out With Joy”**

**Go out with joy and be led forth in peace,  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth singing.  
Go out with joy and be led forth in peace,  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth singing.  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
The Lord almighty shall be praised.  
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
The word of the Lord shall be forever.**

*Announcements & Sharing*

*Dismissal*

P Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude*



*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*“Discovering Christ’s community through building relationships”*

February 20, 2022

+++++ Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.

*Prelude:* “I Turn to You”

*Welcome*  
*(Please stand as able)*

*Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness:*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace:*

“During this time of Covid, please remain in your pew, but share a sign of peace with the neighbors around you”

**Gathering: “Morning Has Broken” Red Book #556**

*Greeting*

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

**C: And also with you.**

*Kyrie*

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*Glory to God*

Refrain: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

***The Prayer of the Day***

**C: 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

*Offertory Prayer*

**C: 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.**

*(Please stand as able)*

*The Great Thanksgiving*

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.**

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

**C: Holy, holy holy Lord. Lord, God of power and might; Heaven 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!**

*Words of Institution*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.  
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer: To Be Spoken***

**C: 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.**

*Invitation to Holy Communion*

P: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

*(Please remain standing)*

*Distribution of Holy Communion*

*Prayers of Intercession*

P: 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.

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 (*especially*). 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.**

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom (*especially*). 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 First Reading is from the 45<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Genesis*

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.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Song: “Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil” Red book #512**

*The Second Reading is from the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter of 1 Corinthians*

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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.  
(Please stand as able)

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

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

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter*

**C: Glory to You O Lord**

Holy 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 on 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

*(Please be seated)*

*Sermon*

*(Please stand as able)*

**Sermon Hymn: “Light Dawns on a Weary World” Red book #726**

**Apostle’s Creed**

**C: 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**

*(Please be seated)*