



Come to Believe † Come to Belong
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY
February 16, 2025

PRELUDE

Rob Aaron

“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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 our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sins with a time of silent self-reflection.

(Time for silence)

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 what 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.

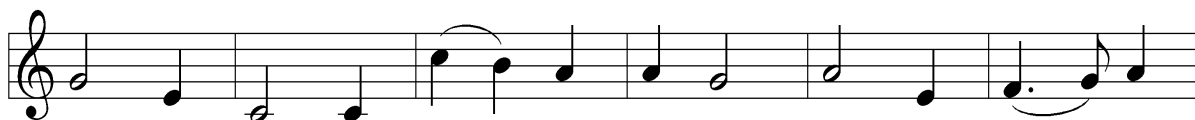
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"God is Here"



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us, as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

GREETING

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.

KYRIE (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray together: **Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives, make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ 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.

⁷ “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? ¹⁰ “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1

¹ Blessed 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;

² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

³ 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.

⁴ The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

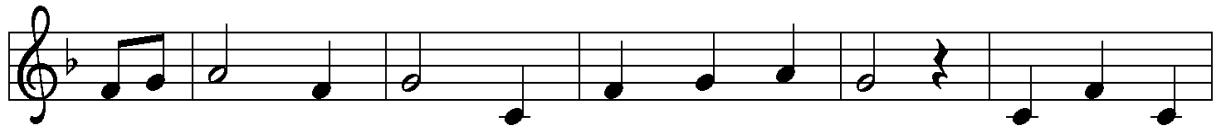
¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord!!

¹⁷ And he 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, ¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² “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! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. ²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!!

SERMON

Pastor Gary Heltsley

SERMON NOTES

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Blest are They"



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

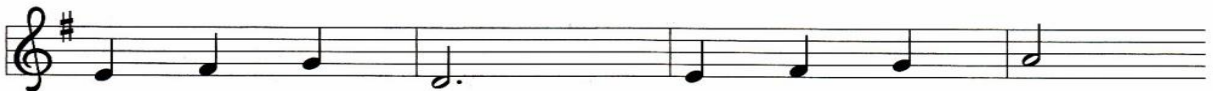


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain
 All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

These persons have come to us from other churches and backgrounds, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism:

Barbara Evans, Michael & Susan Pearce, and Barbara Smith

Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you - members of the one holy Christian and apostolic Church - into our fellowship in the Gospel.

My brother and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that deny God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

People of God, do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

COMMITMENT

You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus?

Each person answers in turn –

“I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.”

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray...Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made this man and these women your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P) Let us draw near to the Light of Christ, offering prayer and supplication on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Heavenly Father, thank you for grafting us to Christ, the Tree of life rich with abundant fruit. Thank you for planting us in the streams of living water: the Spirit flowing from your Son's pierced side. Thank you for raising us to new life in him. May we delight in him, and meditate on him day and night.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, as you have commanded, we pray for our enemies and for everyone hostile to your Word. Soften their hearts and forgive their sins. Heal their souls, and lead them to the foot of your Son's Cross. Give us the grace to welcome them there as sisters and brothers, fellow debtors to your amazing grace.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Keep this congregation in your care. Cause all we do to conform to your will. Help us share the mercy of Jesus with everyone we encounter, especially the people we don't much like. Water us daily with the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Let us grow in grace and in fruits that nourish all who hunger for your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy, ***hear our prayer.***

Guide our earthly leaders in pathways of righteousness and integrity. Give them grace to delight in your Law. Help them use their authority to benefit all people, especially the poor. Help us not to sow seeds of discord and violence. Instead, let us share friendship, respect, and mercy with those who need them most.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Bring healing to the bodies, minds, hearts, and relationships of everyone burdened by sin and suffering. Today we plead especially for those we name out loud, or silently in our hearts (*Allow time for silent or spoken prayers*). Cheer their spirits, renew their hope, and bless their loved ones and caregivers.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Thank you, Father, for the lives of all your faithful people who are now at rest in you. Thank you for their witness, example, and goodness towards us. Nourish us with your Word and refresh us with your Spirit. Help us to grow in faith toward you and in love for one another. Bring us, we pray, into the Resurrection-life he has won for all who love him.

Lord, in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) For all these things, dear Father, and for whatever else you desire for us in your wisdom and compassion, we pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior, Lord, and King. *Amen.*

P) The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C) **And also with you.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Doxology*



**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **Loving God, we give you thanks for the generous gifts you have first given us. May that which we offer to you, come joyfully from our hearts and be pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

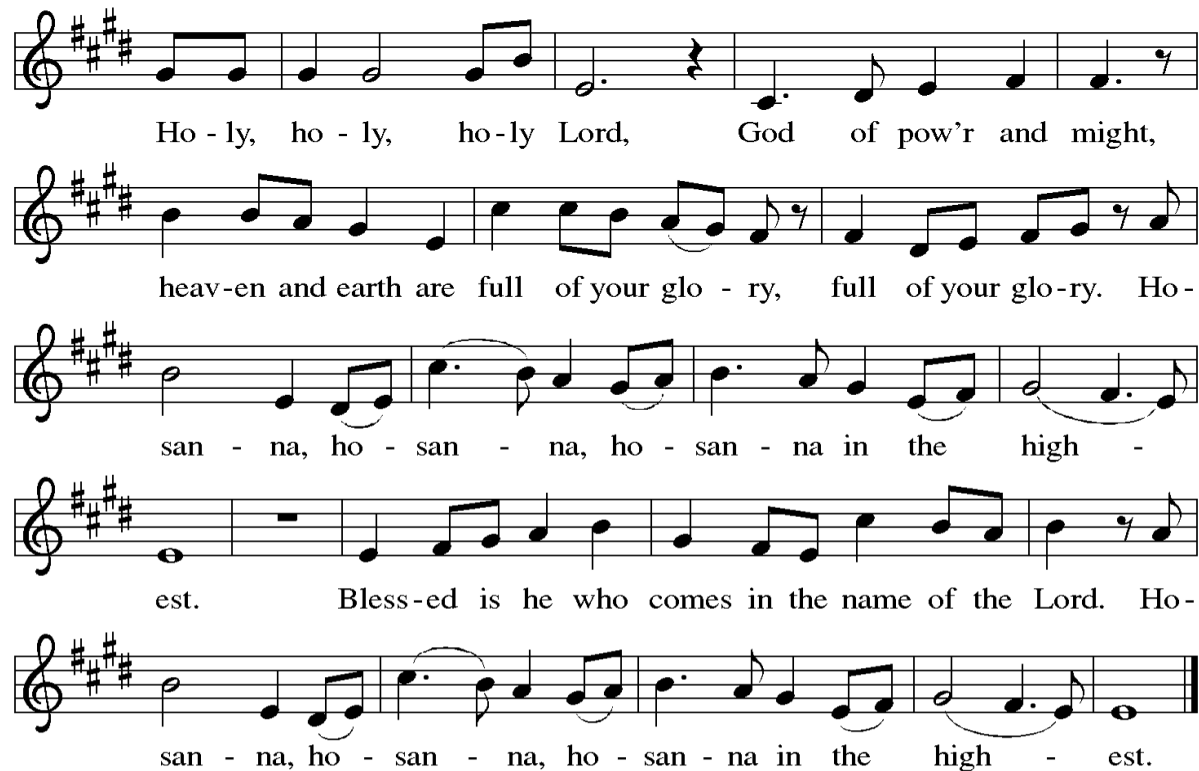
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right...*(pastor continues, concluding with)*, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*



Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All are welcome at the Lord's Table *(the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice)*.

"Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"What Feast of Love"

1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what ho-ly drink from heav-en?
What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

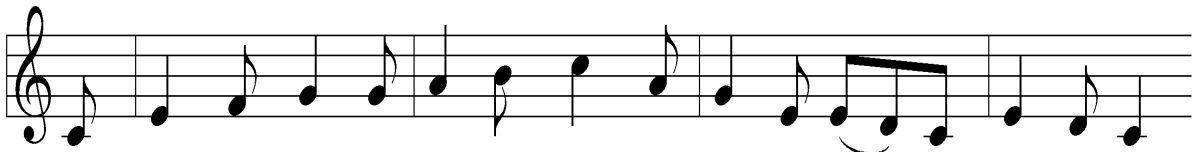


Sweet Hour of Prayer

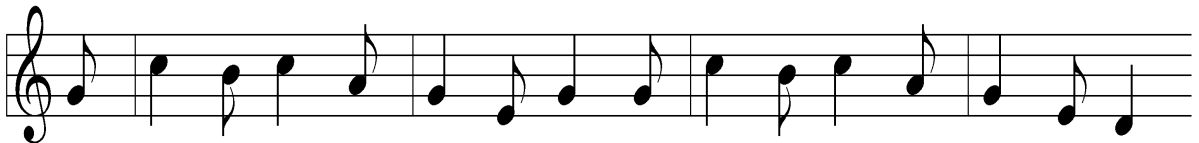
"Sweet Hour of Prayer"



- 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
- 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear
- 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
to him whose truth and faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

“Love Lifted Me”



1 I was sink-ing deep in sin, far from the peace-ful shore, ver - y deep-ly
2 All my heart to him I give, ev - er to him I'll cling, in his bless-ed
3 Souls in dan-ger, look a - bove, Je - sus com-plete - ly saves; he will lift you



stained with-in, sink-ing to rise no more; but the mas-ter of the sea
pres - ence live, ev - er his prais - es sing; love so might-y and so true
by his love out of the an - gry waves; he's the mas-ter of the sea,



heard my de-spair-ing cry, from the wa-ters lift - ed me, now safe am I.
mer - its my soul's best songs; faith-ful lov-ing ser-vice, too, to him be - longs.
bil - lows his will o - bey; he your Sav-ior true will be: be saved to - day.

Refrain



Love lift - ed me! Love lift - ed me! When noth - ing



else could help, love lift - ed me. love lift - ed me.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

Let us pray together: **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE BLESSING

SENDING SONG

“We Praise You, O God”



1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Rob Aaron – piano ~ Nancy Martin – choir ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeters: Diane Heltsley & Brent Thoemke

Ushers: Kristian & Janice Schonberg

Reader: Sue Nichols

Altar Flowers: Pastor Gary & Diane

Sacristans: Bonnie O'Hanlon & Rosemary Wheaton

Communion Assistants: Sandi Fleury & Shelley Marion

Barista: Barb Evans

Close Up: Rosemary Wheaton

Last Week's Attendance: 103 **Last Week's Offering:** \$3,978.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to North Bay Lutheran Community Church! We hope you are blessed today as we worship the Lord together. If you are a visitor, please feel free to fill out an attendance card located in the slot in front of you and drop it in the offering plate. We also invite you to stay for fellowship following our service. We are glad that you're here!

Fellowship time – Biscuits & Gravy. Next week (*Feb. 23rd*) – 15th Anniversary Potluck, please bring your favorite dish to share.

Neighborhood Bible Study – will meet on **Tuesday, Feb. 18th at 12:45 pm**. For more information, please contact Sue Nichols or call the church office.

Dementia Support Group will meet on **Wednesday, Feb. 19th at 10:00 am**. For more information, please contact Patty or call the church office.

The Chosen Viewing - You are invited to join Pastor Gary to view Season 1 of *The Chosen* on **Wednesday, Feb. 19th at 6:00 pm**. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall to watch Episode 8 and then have an informal discussion and time to share our thoughts. ***All are welcome!*** Note: This will be the final episode of Season 1; we will take a break during Lent.

Women's Bible Study will meet **Friday, Feb. 21st at 11:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Shari Stormo or the church office.

Men's Bible Study - will meet this **Saturday, Feb. 22nd at 8:00 am** as we continue our study of the Book of Genesis.

NBLCC 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – On **Sunday, Feb. 23rd** we will be having a special day of worship celebrating the 15th Anniversary of our church. Make plans on being with us!

Southern California Fires - Over the next couple of weeks, we will be accepting donations to send to **Samaritan's Purse** as they help those in California who are recovering from the Wildfire Destruction in January. Samaritan's Purse has deployed to devastated areas of Southern California after the Eaton and Palisades fires. They will be assisting homeowners with recovery efforts, serving communities from two bases of operations: Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena and Cornerstone Church of West Los Angeles. There will be an offering basket in the entryway to give as you feel led.

Office Hours this week are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm – Tuesday through Friday.

Pastor Gary is in the office Wednesday through Friday, 9:30 am to noon.

Prayers – Please call the church line with your prayer requests, or if you need pastoral care (360) 275-3390.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Genesis 28:10-19 ~ Psalm 96:1-12 ~ 1 Peter 2:4-10 ~ Matthew 22:15-22



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