



## February 16, 2025

### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

*Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshipping.** Today’s service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion:** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood “in, with, and under” the bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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 Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

## +GATHERING+

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

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

*Pause for silent reflection.*

P Most merciful God, **C we confess that we are captive 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. Through 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.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **C Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG: *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

## 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



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,



let us pray to the Lord.

P Let us pray. 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. **C Amen.**

**For the LORD knows the way<sup>1</sup> of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall<sup>1</sup> be destroyed. R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of 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, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for 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 first fruits of those who have died. The word of the Lord. **C 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**

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P The holy gospel according to Luke. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those

who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at 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 will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors 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 will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.” The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
- 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
- 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed;  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

## APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

**A** Please respond, hear our prayer.

**A** Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, **C hear our prayer.**

A We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **C Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

## BIRTHDAY SONG

*He who began a good work in you 2x*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!*

## +MEAL+

## OFFERING: *We Come to the Hungry Feast* (ELW 479)



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.



## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **C Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

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.**

### PREFACE

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. 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:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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.

**C Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C Our Father, who art in heaven...**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

### **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.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Here I Am, Lord* (ELW 574)



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



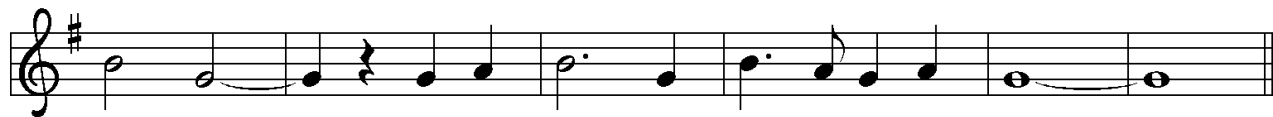
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

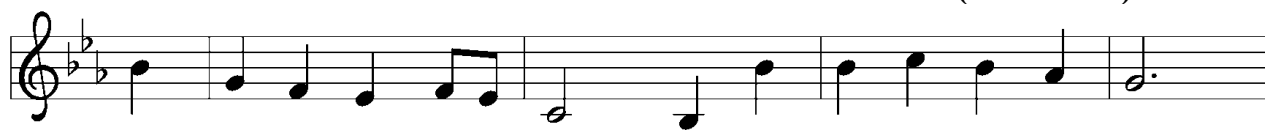


call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

## SONG DURING COMMUNION: *We All Are One in Mission* (ELW 576)



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit-ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C Amen.**

## SENDING

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

## BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **C Amen.**

# SENDING SONG: *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

*Refrain*



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## **DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Live in hope. C **Thanks be to God.**

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### **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546 ~ Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

### **Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses**

What Luke says to us describes precisely the scandal in which the present church is involved: the great scandal among us is the intercommunion of rich Christians who remain rich and poor Christians who remain poor while celebrating the same eucharist, taking no notice of the Christian model of sharing possessions, the sharing of the one cup of salvation among one another. For this salvation also has social and economic consequences. Everyone, not just an elite group, has to be full enough to be able to laugh because salvation has happened to him or her. God wants life, and life in abundance, for all, not simply for one-third, of the world's population. What about our abundance? That is Luke's critical question, a concrete challenge to all of us, here and now. —*Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P*

## Announcements for the week of *February 16, 2025*

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~ Welcome Pastor Klose and thank you for leading us in worship this morning.

### ~ **INREACH / OUTREACH**

Super bowl Sunday turned out to be a snowy morning resulting in just a few people attending church. Our Super bowl collection had very few donations although it ended in a tie between Eagles and "I Don't Care". To increase our donation to the Boy's and Girl's Club you can make a donation to your favorite (team) today. Thank you for playing football with us. 😊

~Don't forget that February is **DIAPER** month. Sizes 3, 4 and 5 are most needed. You can also donate adult diapers if you have any. Remember, we hope to be able to fill the back of our delivery truck!

~ The Gardening Group will start meeting again soon. Heritage Farm and Garden will be offering various workshops in February and March. We plan on attending the following: March 8th – The ABC's of Pruning Shrubs and March 15th – Get Your Garden Ready for Spring. We need to each register individually on Heritage's website: (heritagefarmandgarden.com). We'll carpool from church so, let either Laureen or Barbara know if you'll be attending.

~ We welcome items for our newsletter but please have them in by Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

~ WELCA will meet at St. David's in Massapequa Park on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Anyone with questions should reach out to Joyce Anderson at [daisyjoyce7@yahoo.com](mailto:daisyjoyce7@yahoo.com).

~ Please join us for the coffee hour.

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

**PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (February 17<sup>th</sup> - February 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion
	10:45 am Council Meeting
	10:00am H.S.S
Tuesday	7:00 pm Back to Basics
Wednesday	7:00 pm Back to Basics II
<b>Next Sunday,</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion

**SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY**

Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Vicki Maxey
LECTOR:	Barbara Barcavage
ACOLYTE:	Kiko Reyes
USHERS:	Tyler LaVorgna
ACCOMPANIST	Mason Griffin
GREETER:	Maureen O'Brien
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Beth Feeney & Jane Ebersberger

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

**PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Bill Artus  
Kevin Barcavage  
Dottie Eberhardt  
Roger Engert  
Rick Mosebach  
Ilona Riggers

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES**

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)  
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)  
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)  
John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)  
William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

**PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS**

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)  
Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)  
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)



Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Sarah Motyka (friend of the Maurer family)  
Megan Mudd ( friend of the Staton family)  
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)  
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)  
John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)