

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 24, 2019

Worship Focus

**This is Jesus – First Sermon, Part 2: Plain Talk about Love for
Our Enemies**



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

229 – This Day at Your Creating Word



1 This day at your cre - a - ting word First o'er the
2 This day the Lord for sin - ners slain In might vic -
3 This day the Ho - ly Spir - it came With fi - ery
4 This day of light and life and grace We gath - er
5 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, To Christ, who



earth the light was poured: O Lord, this day up -
to - rious rose a - gain: O Je - sus, raise your
tongues of clo - ven flame: O Spir - it, fill our
in our wor - ship - place: This ho - ly hour, blest
set his peo - ple free, Whom with the Spir - it



on us shine, And fill our souls with light di - vine.
peo - ple, too, From death of sin to life in you.
hearts this day With grace to hear and grace to pray.
gift of love, Give we a - gain to God a - bove.
we a - dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) *Musicalish Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister

The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C Amen.

Confession
& Absolution

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope of your promises and be strong in the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Genesis 45:3-8a, 15

Joseph showed extraordinary love toward his brothers.

GENESIS 45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

^{8a} “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.”

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

SENIOR CHOIR

Father, Lead Me, Day by Day

*Father, lead me day by day, Ever in Thine own strong way;
Help me always to be true, Show me what I ought to do.*

*When in danger make me brave, Make me know that Thou canst save;
Keep me safely by Thy side: Let me in Thy love abide.*

*When I'm tempted to do wrong, Make me steadfast, wise and strong;
And when all alone I stand, shield me with Thy mighty hand. Amen.*

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:35-38a, 42-49

We are dust; worse, we are sinners. But God shows great love to us in promising a reversal; a resurrection to perfect, eternal life.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:35 But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ^{38a} But God gives it a body as he has determined.

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” ; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Alleluia. (Luke 6:36)

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

Love is the heart of Jesus’ message. But it is love shown to unlikely people... those who have shown themselves at odds with us.

LUKE 6:27 “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners,’ expecting to be

repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be 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. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

492 - Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior,
 2 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us,
 3 Bind us all as one to - geth - er,
 4 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers,

Source of life and truth and grace, Word made
 King of love and Prince of Peace; Hush the
 In your Church's sa - cred fold, Weak and
 So may we for oth - ers live. Free - ly

flesh, whose birth a - mong us, Hon - ors
 storm of strife and pas - sion; Bid its
 health - y, poor and wealth - y, Sad and
 have your gifts been grant - ed; Free - ly

all our hu - man race, You our head,
 cru - el dis - cords cease. By your pa -
 joy - ful, young and old. Is there want
 may your ser - vants give, Yours the gold

who, throned in glo - ry, For your own will
 tient years of toil - ing, By your si - lent
 or pain or sor - row? Make us all the
 and yours the sil - ver, Yours the wealth of

ev - er plead: Fill us with your love and
 hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered thirst for
 bur - den share. Are there spir - its crushed and
 land and sea; We but stew - ards of your

pit - y; Heal our wrongs and help our need.
 plea - sure; Stem our self - ish greed for gain.
 bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1932, abr., alt.
 Tune: LORD, REVIVE US (87 87 D) *The Revivalist*, Troy, NY, 1868.

SERMON
 Luke 6:36-42

Follow the Path of Mercy

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

We pray, Lord, with Joseph of old, who endured hardship and struggle and yet believed it would come to good. Bring all things to completion according to Your wisdom and purpose in Him who as the new Adam has brought hope to a world in sin and death, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and from the paralysis of fear. Help us to know with joy our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for Your Church; for an end to the earthly divisions that grieve You; for the true unity of doctrine and faith in Your Word; and for those who lead us in the wider church and locally in this congregation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for Your comfort upon all who suffer. Deliver the sick according to Your will, and sustain those troubled in body or soul by Your grace. [*Especially do we pray for _____ and those we name in our hearts.*] Be with the dying and grant them peace at the last, and give Your comfort to those who grieve. Give to all patience and courage, that they may endure these times of trial with hope in their hearts. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, for Your love to have its way with us. Lead us to expect no reward and teach us from Your own example not to act from self-interest but to love even our enemies and to serve those in need. End all bitterness and strife, and let Your forgiveness cover us in our lives together as You cover us with the blood of Christ before Your heavenly throne. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, that You will bring all things to completion, each in Your time. And when Christ comes, we pray that You will number us among the saints in glory as the dead are raised and the perishable is clothed with the imperishable — just as our Savior has promised. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord, to grant us these and all things good and wholesome and profitable to our salvation, through the merits and mercies of Jesus Christ, our Savior, in union with You and the Holy Spirit, the one eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

490 - Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing,
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing,
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er,

Bind - ing faith - ful hearts in one;
Clothed in Christ's hu - mil - i - ty,
Faint - ing not when ills at - tend;

Love in Christ is true and giv - ing—
Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,

May his will in us be done!
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty,
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934. © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: DOROTHY (87 87) Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932. © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

326 – May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

1 May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior And the
2 So may we a - bide in un - ion With each
3 Now with all the saints in heav - en Thanks and

Fa - ther's bound - less love With the Ho - ly Spir - it's
oth - er and the Lord, Gath - ered here in blest com -
praise to you we sing, Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

fa - vor Rest up - on us from a - bove.
mun - ion By the pow - er of his Word.
Spir - it, Three in One, our tri - une King.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-2, alt.; Carroll T. Andrews, b. 1918, st. 3, alt.
St. 3 © 1971 by GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: STUTTGART (87 87) Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716, alt.