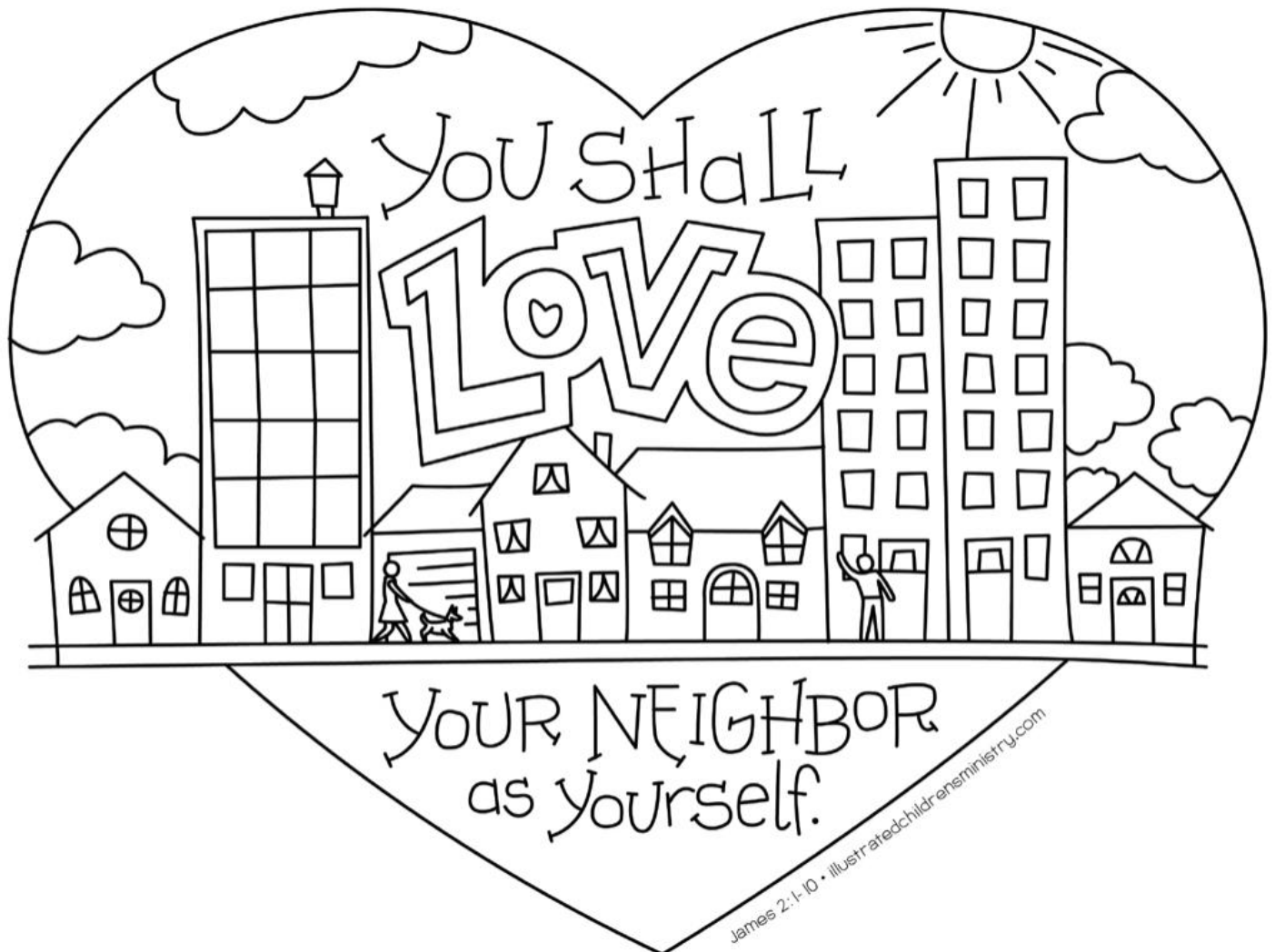


# THE 6TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 12th, 2023



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Karen McCumber [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Pat Kimpel [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** Judy Mason [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKTi9c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of Your people who call on You, and grant that they may know and understand the things they ought to do and also may have grace and strength to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: 1 Cor. 1: 26-31      Wednesday: Rom. 3: 21-28      Friday: Matt. 10: 40-42  
Tuesday: Phil. 1: 27-30      Thursday: 1 Cor. 3: 5-9      Saturday: Luke 17: 5-10

**February Worship Schedule 2023**

Sunday, Feb. 12: Epiphany 6: Creative Communion  
Sunday, Feb. 19: Transfiguration: Gospel Melodies Service of the Word  
Wednesday, Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday Simple Communion with Imposition of Ashes  
Sunday, Feb. 26: Lent 1: Divine Service Setting 1 [without Communion]

**Musician:** 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz  
**Reader:** 10 a.m. – Daniel Figueroa  
**Greeter:** 10 a.m. – Judy Slingerland

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 a.m. – Sunday School  
**NO** Confirmation Class today or Sunday, Feb. 19  
**2:00 p.m. – VOTER'S MEETING**  
Monday: 10-11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. - Choir Practice  
Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments  
Thursday: **NO SOUL**  
7:00 p.m. – Women's Bible Study in church basement  
Sunday, Feb. 19, 3- 5:00 p.m: Baby Shower for Daniela Cruz in church basement

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: TODAY --** We resume our regular schedule of meeting on the first 2 Sundays of each month.

**VOTERS MEETING: TODAY** at 2:00 p.m. Main item for discussion and approval is the 2023 Congregational Budget.

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS:** If you or someone you know would benefit from friendly conversation, a time for kids to play & sing; hear a Bible story and make a craft - please join us Tuesdays in the nursery area from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Coffee and tea are always on.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** We will meet at the church *Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.* for our continued study on the book of Romans (chapter 6) through "Right Now Media". Please bring your Bibles. See you there!

**BABY SHOWER - SUNDAY, FEB. 19, 3:00 – 5:00 pm:** Here at the church, In honour of Daniela Cruz and Eduardo Farias. Eduardo is a MTS student at CLTS and an adopted student of the Mary Martha, which means that our LWML group supports them financially. They are also very talented musicians you have probably heard about. The baby is due in March and it is a girl. We would like to invite all of the ladies from the congregation to join us, everyone is welcome! One of the things on Daniela's list was a crib and the Mary Maratha has purchased one, so you may contribute to that (just give a donation to Ivy) or buy a small gift of your own to bring. Since it is their 1<sup>st</sup> baby they pretty much need everything. Please contact Lorraine Kaija if you think you might attend, (or one of the executive – Wendy H, Sue H, Ivy, Kathy or Carole) so we can plan numbers. If you would like to contribute to the appetizers for the afternoon, speak to Carole.

**MARY MARTHA:** *The following is our Mary Martha Schedule for our Winter/Spring program:*

**Feb 21<sup>st</sup> -- Speaker from the Mobile Closet**

Our guest speaker will be Amy Whittaker, Program Manager. The Mobile Closet provides a free mobile shopping experience with each person choosing their own attire.

*At the moment **there is an "urgent need of the following items:***

- \*\*Men's pants (track pants and jeans)**
- \*\*Men's Jackets**
- \*\*Men's underwear (New)**
- \*\*Women's Deodorant**
- \*\*Blankets**

If you are cleaning out your closet and find any of the above items in good condition, we would welcome them in time for our meeting on February 21. *(Bring them in by Sunday, February 19th and leave them by the coat racks in the narthex.)* Thank you in advance!

- March 21: Quilt tying and stamp trimming
- April 18: Speaker-Jude Mersereau
- May 16: Bible Study--Pastor Todd (tentative)
- June 10: Potluck

Please feel free to attend any, or all, of our Tuesday night events!  
(If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

**CONFIRMAND/YOUTH FUN NIGHT:** Join us at the church **Thursday, February 23, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** for fun, games, singing with the band, a devotion & snacks. Bring your calendars so we can plan our next few events!



## FAMILY SUPPER & BUNKO NIGHT

*(BUNKO is a fun game enjoyed by ages 3-103)*

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10  
we hope you will join us!

**Saturday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.**

Meal, Salad and Drinks will be provided!  
**Please bring a dessert to share!!**

**Sign up sheet in the Narthex!**


**Review and Renew**  
**Back to the Basics**

**What We Believe & Why It Matters**  
Lenten Focus 2023  
Wednesdays Feb 22 - March 29 7-8 PM

- 1) Ash Wednesday Simple Communion & ashes - Purposeful praying or praying with purpose? [ Lord's Prayer focus]
- 2) What does "Living Word" mean [10 Commandments focus]
- 3) What happens when I follow God's lead? [ the Apostles' Creed focus]
- 4) Little Christ, little me [Baptism focus]
- 5) How our hearts and mouths align [Confession and Forgiveness focus]
- 6) You are what you eat [Holy Communion focus]

Midweek Lent will have hymns, prayer, Scripture and a Bible Study format message with discussion question time.  
We meet in the Church Sanctuary.

Holy Week & Easter will be the usual worship services



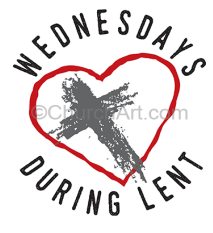
**Lenten Study Material** will be available, before Ash Wednesday, for all who wish to join.

Ash Wednesday will be a regular church service with Communion and imposition of ashes.

"**Review & Renew**" is a Bible Study which will be conducted by Pastor Todd in the church sanctuary the remaining Wednesdays of Lent

Holy Week will be regular church services.

Join the Fellowship Committee for a "**FREE DINNER**" every Wednesday of Lent, at 6:00 p.m. before the "**Review & Renew**" Bible Study



Wednesday, February 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 1:	Chili at Church
Wednesday, March 8:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 15:	Soup & Salvation
Wednesday, March 22:	Praise and Pizza
Wednesday, March 29:	Praise and Pasta



**MUSIC TRIVIA & DINNER**  
The Fellowship Committee is reserving a few tables for an evening of:

## NAME THAT TUNE!!

Saturday, March 11th  
Port Dalhousie Yacht Club, 74 Lighthouse Rd.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m.  
Pub Food Buffet at 6:00 p.m.  
Game Begins at 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets \$25 plus HST = \$28.25

Sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in a fun evening of "Music Trivia" and "Fellowship".  
Once we have committed numbers, the Fellowship Committee will purchase and distribute the tickets.  
Any questions contact Tim, Judy or Marge

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES** to Gary, Wendy and all of their family on the passing of Gary's father, Bernard Kuenzel last Sunday. May God give them comfort at this difficult time.

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED JOINING THE CHOIR?** Do you like to sing? We could always use more voices and would give you a hearty welcome. We will be starting up practices again on February 6<sup>th</sup> and each following Monday evening from 7:30 – 9 pm. We look now towards the Lenten season beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) and taking us into Holy Week in April. Speak to Carole if you might be interested.

**GREETERS:** A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.



+



## **What does Cheez Whiz have to do with downtown's St. George's Anglican Church?**

Cheez Whiz sandwiches are just one of the breakfast options that are being served at St. George's every day, **365 days a year**, for over 25 years. Each morning a team of 6-8 volunteers arrives at 6:30 a.m. to make porridge, coffee, sandwiches and cereal for the many in our community who are unable to provide themselves with a nutritious breakfast.

These volunteers are not just members of St. George's. They manage the program but depend on many others from the community to help with the day-to-day preparation, as well as donations from many in order to feed the hungry.

Christ Lutheran Church has agreed to help by making February "Cheez Whiz" month. We will be collecting donations of jars of CheezWhiz (**LARGE SIZE PLEASE, +900g.**) to contribute to the pantry there. There will be a box in the narthex, starting next week, where you can place your donation.

If you prefer to donate \$20 or more and receive a tax receipt, place a cheque made out to St. George's Anglican Church in a separate envelope, and label it "for Breakfast Program", and put it in the offering plate. Make sure your name and address are included in order to get a tax receipt. The cheques will be taken to St. George's when the jars of CheezWhiz are delivered. You can also donate directly on their website: **stgeorgesanglican.ca** Click on "Contact" at top right and then go to bottom of screen where it says "Donate Now". Click on "Breakfast Program" where it says FUND and mention you are from Christ Lutheran Church in the message box.

Perhaps you want to help make and serve breakfast too. With as little a commitment as one morning a month to serving as a mentor once a week, there is a place for more help. If you might be interested in volunteering, **speaking to Wendy Kuenzel (289-990-4236) to get contact info.**

CREATIVE COMMUNION  
THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
February 12, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

BEGINNING HYMN:

"When Love Is Found"



1. When love is found and hope comes home, Sing and be  
2. When love has flow'ed in trust and care, Build both each  
3. When love is tried as loved - ones change, Hold still to  
4. When love is torn, and trust be - trayed, Pray strength to  
5. Praise God for love, praise God for life, In age or



glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and  
day, that love may dare To reach be - yond home's  
hope, though all seems strange, Till ease re - turns and  
love till tor - ments fade, Till lov - ers keep no  
youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let



fills the sky, Praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.  
warmth and light, To serve and strive for truth and right.  
love grows wise Through lis - t'ning ears and o - pened eyes.  
score of wrong But hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.  
love be fed Through death and life in bro - ken bread.

Text: Brian Wren, b.1936, © 1983, Hope Publishing Co.  
Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English; harm. by Martin West, b.1929

<https://www.hsparish.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/When-Love-Is-Found-lyrics-only.pdf>

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

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

**Amen**

All who say, "I love God," and hate their brother or sister are liars,

**for those who do not love their brother or sister, whom they have seen,**  
cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

**Love does not insist on its own way;**

Love keeps no record of wrongs;

**it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.**

In truth and love before our gracious God, we humbly confess our sins -- dear Father:

**When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day long. Day and night you punished me, LORD; my strength was completely drained, as moisture is dried up by the summer heat. Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings. I am moved to confess them all to you, and you forgave me all my sins. You are my hiding place; you will save me from trouble. I sing aloud of your salvation, because you protect me. All of us who do evil will have to suffer, but all of us who trust in the LORD are protected by his constant love. Amen.**

We love God because He first loved us. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Blessed are we, who's sins are never held against us. Because God so loved the world by giving us His Son, in His holy name and by His Holy Command, I therefore as His called and ordained Servant, forgive you all of Your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE:

[Tune: Ode To Joy]



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

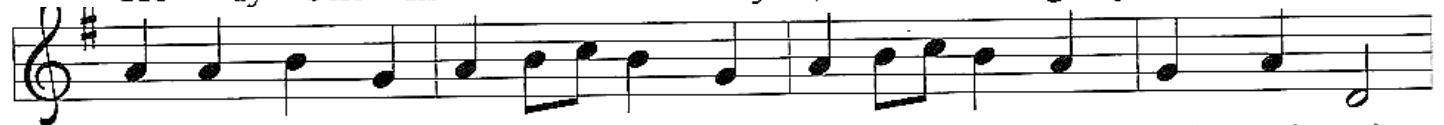
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

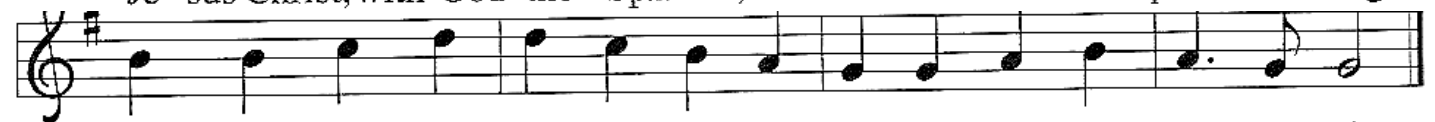
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: O Lord God, the strength of all who hope in You, because we are weak servants we accomplish nothing good without You. Help us to see and understand the things You teach us to do, and give us Your grace and power to do them. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### GOD'S WORD

**The Old Testament:** *Deuteronomy 30: 15-20*

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I give you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the

Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle:** *1 Corinthians 3: 1-9*

[St. Paul writes:] But I, brothers and sisters, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

(Tune: *LSB # 901*)

5205a



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

**The Holy Gospel:** *St. Matthew 5:21-37*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus says:] “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it



away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.' But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED:**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL SONG:**

*"Take Us As We Are, O God"*

© 1985 Hope Publishers

1 Take us as we are, O God, and  
 2 Bless us for your ser - vice, Lord; no  
 3 Break us o - pen to dis - close how  
 4 Give us to the world you love as

claim us as your own. As  
 pow - er we de - vise will  
 bro - ken - ness can heal, wher -  
 light and salt and yeast, that

once you chose to tell your love in  
 ev - er give us strength e - nough or  
 ev - er bro - ken loaves suf - fice to  
 we may nour - ish in your name the

hu - man flesh and bone, so  
 make us tru - ly wise, yet  
 give a crowd a meal and  
 last, the lost, the least, un -

let our lives be used to make your  
 by your prom - ise we can know the  
 graves break o - pen to re - lease new  
 til at length you call us all to

sav - ing pur - pose known.  
 peace your grace sup - plies.  
 life from death's dread seal.  
 your un - end - ing feast.

*Lift Up Your Hearts* 862  
 Words: Carl P. Daw Jr (b. 1944) © 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music (ENDLESS FEAST 7.6.8.6.8.6): Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953) © 1995 Selah Publishing Company

[https://hymnary.org/text/take\\_us\\_as\\_we\\_are\\_o\\_god#authority\\_media\\_flexscores](https://hymnary.org/text/take_us_as_we_are_o_god#authority_media_flexscores)

## MESSAGE

**THE OFFERING** *is received*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Dear Father, Your Son, our Saviour Jesus says: We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We pray for the world in which we are called to let our light shine; for the people who will see our good deeds; and for the church in which the light of the gospel is proclaimed.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

Build the Church into a holy temple, filled with your Spirit, with Christ as the cornerstone. Give her faithful pastors, leaders, teachers, deacons and all manner of volunteers and servants. Help them plant and water the seed of faith, to which you alone give growth. Make the Church set before the world the way of life; and grant that many should follow.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

Cause quarrels, angry words, and hurt feelings to cease in every place where Your people gather. Unite us in a common purpose: planting and tending the seed of faith in one another, in our children and grandchildren, and in our friends, neighbours, and community.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

Jesus spoke about anger, adultery and divorce. Help us trust in His Words of hope and renewal. Bring your forgiveness and healing to those wounded by hurtful words and deeds. Give each of us wisdom and grace to comfort, challenge, and encourage loved ones who strive to remain faithful; who struggle to repent of offenses they have caused; and who agonize over how to forgive those who have betrayed their trust.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

Set before the rulers of nations the path of life and of death. Give them the desire and strength to choose life for themselves and for the people in their care. Conform each of us to your will, so that we may truly live together as your people.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

We lift before you the needs of everyone afflicted by suffering, sin, or sorrow, especially: Please come to the aid of ...[names added here]. Deliver them from evil; grant them refreshment, hope and healing; and restore them to fellowship with all who love them.

*Hear us O God -- Your mercy is great.*

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant to us, dear Father, for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, O Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God; and now we praise You, that You have sent to us Your Only Son, and that in him, being found in human form, You have revealed the fullness of your glory. And so, with the Church on earth, and the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, Lord God Al - migh - ty,  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout glo-ries of Your name.  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, sing -- ing Ho - san -- na!  
Bles -- sed is He Who comes in our Lord's name.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come...**

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My

+ Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

“O Jesus Christ”

(Tune: “Just as I Am”)



O Jes-us Chri-st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You



Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;



And bless us with Your peace; A -- men.

**HOLY COMMUNION PILGRIM STYLE RECEPTION** *[gluten free wafers available]*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** “Come To The Table, Sinner And Saint” *[Have Thine Own Way tune]*

Come to the table, sinner and saint,  
strong-hearted, mighty, weary and faint,  
empty, repentant, seeking a place.  
Christ welcomes you with joy and grace.

Come, unafraid, for here you will find  
Love shows you mercy; always is kind.  
Love treats as one all those who believe.  
Come to the table, Christ now receive.

All things are ready, come and draw near.  
Share in the supper -- given out here:

bread that is broken, drink the red wine,  
Love's holy token--human, divine.

Eat, and remember, as we partake,  
Jesus the Christ who died for our sake,  
sharing this meal for Christ is the way,  
rising to lead us to a new day.

Go from our Lord's meal, joyful in heart,  
filled with thanksgiving as you depart,  
graced by the Spirit, blessed by our Friend,  
strengthened with Christ to serve to life's  
end

<sup>4</sup>  
Mary Keithahn, © 2002 [https://hymnary.org/text/come\\_to\\_the\\_table\\_sinner\\_and\\_saint#Author](https://hymnary.org/text/come_to_the_table_sinner_and_saint#Author)

· HAPPY ·  
Valentine's  
Day

"His Name Is Wonderful"

© 1959 Audrey Mieir



His name is Won-der-ful, His name is Won-der-ful. His name is



Won-der-ful, Je-sus, my Lord. He is the might-y King, Mas-ter of



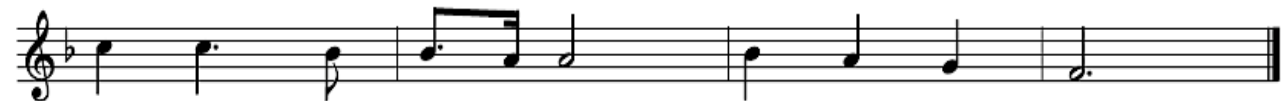
ev-ry-thing, His name is Won-der-ful, Je-sus, my Lord. He's the Great



Shep-herd, the Rock of all a-ges, Al-might-y God is He. \_\_\_\_\_



Bow down be-fore Him, love and a-dore Him,



His name is Won-der-ful, Je-sus, my Lord.

CCLI Song # 1122230

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POST COMMUNION HYMN:

[Tune: LSB # 811 "O That I Had A Thousand Voices"]



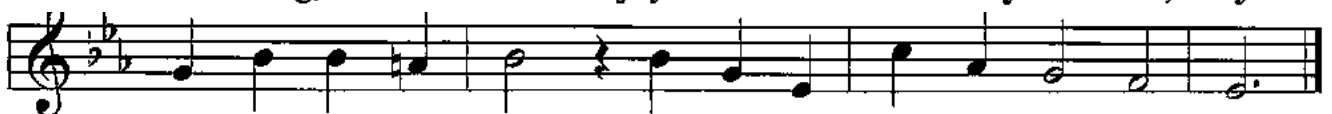
**C:** My heart has now be-come Your dwell-ing, O bless-ed,



ho-ly Trin-i-ty. With an-gels I, Your prais-es



tell-ing, Shall live in joy e-ter-nal-ly. Lord, may Your



bod-y and Your blood Be for my 'soul the high-est good!

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, in the beginning You created light and at the right time You sent Your Son to be the true Light of the world. Through the gift of Jesus' body and blood, shine in our hearts and lives, so that we may share in the inheritance of all the saints in the light. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

**LAST HYMN:**

*"Oh, How I Love Jesus!"*

[www.hymnary.org/hymn/AAHH2001/page/424](http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/AAHH2001/page/424)



1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its  
2. It tells me of a Sav - ior's love, Who died to set me  
3. It tells me what my Fa - ther has In store for ev - 'ry  
4. It tells of One whose lov - ing heart Can feel my deep - est



worth; It sounds like mu - sic in my ear, The sweet - est  
free; It tells me of His pre - cious blood, The sin - ner's  
day, And though I tread a gloom - y path, Yields sun - shine  
woe, Who in each sor - row bears a part, That none can



name on earth.  
per - fect plea. O how I love Je - sus, O how I love  
all the way.  
bear be - low.



Je - sus, O how I love Je - sus, Be - cause He first loved me!

**REV. TODD HOEFFS**  
**EPIPHANY 6 (series A)**  
**Scripture: St. Matthew 5: 21-31**  
**February 12, 2023**

Doesn't it feel totally unfair when the rules are changed in middle of a game! It's not right. You'd think someone is favoring one team over another. Same thing can happen in life. Just when you think you have life figured out, you're all settled in, then life changes. You must pivot somehow. Anticipated change is difficult enough. Unexpected change can be disturbing. Jesus' re-explanation of the Law feels like changing the rules in the middle of the game...for his listeners. He's not replacing the old with the new or different. He filling up the lost meaning that the Law comes with grace. He's revealing the heart of what God really wants, which is a loving relationship with people. By doing this, **JESUS IS MAKING ALL THINGS NEW AGAIN.** Every rabbi of this era began by saying "You have heard that it is said" and then quoted a portion of the TORAH, Genesis through Deuteronomy. Some prophets too, but therein lies part of the historic problem. Ignoring certain prophets led to misinterpretations. Rabbi Jesus begins the this way and explains **GOD'S WORD** with **AUTHORITY. THIS IS NEW!** He is speaking as if **HE IS GOD.** Which He is. He's claiming the right to share the **GOD'S WORD** the way its supposed to be. This just isn't done. It means many things – Chiefly, that Israel's identity is changing. Why mess with it? Why bring new light to the 10 Commandments? I remember the time my Seminary professor shocked our class. Saying that the only commandment we **DON'T** have to follow is the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment, about keeping the Sabbath day holy! It was shocking, especially when you think we're all going to be pastors and have to motivate people to come to church! He nonchalantly said, "well, are you going to command people to go to church on Saturday? That's the Sabbath. Not so new. My own pastor told me the same thing years earlier in catechism class. Jesus' kept that commandment for you by resting in the tomb on the Sabbath and rose from the dead on Sunday! So Sunday isn't a commanded day, but it is a Gospel day! You come to church because **GOD MOVES** you to attend. This flows from grace from your faith because what you receive here is good! Martin Luther also encouraged Sunday worship so that the believer doesn't ignore or dislike God's Word. The 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment didn't disappear, but it's explained now in light of the Gospel. Jesus is doing that here, too. Jesus troubles the ruling class of Pharisees. They're in charge of governing the religious culture. While it could be said they had Israel & God's best interests as heart, it often turned self-serving. After all of the takeover by enemy armies, they worried that the Jewish identity would one day end. We know what fear does. It's a fast and ugly motivator, breeding paranoia and aggression. They'd have been very nervous about Jesus' sermon. A Pharisee would ask—"did you walk up to a person and kill them?"

Did you steal their possession? Did you open your mouth and publicly curse them?

No. OK, you're good!" Following the law of God this way does not transform the person...

in fact, it produces a division between the outward & inward life. As if to say acting good is good enough for God. Jesus turns us away from the outward performance. The inner life, the heart and soul and attitude is what matters. Keep in mind, the point of God's Law is to make a distinction – to form & shape character – so that whenever anyone looked at ancient Israel they'd see the IMAGE OF GOD. This is also because GOD set His promise of forgiveness & salvation with the Law. Without that, living God's way is impossible. One can try following the rules but without God's direct gift of faith in Jesus—Trying hard on your own would either lead you down the path of despair that you're not good enough – or you trick yourself into believing you actually ARE doing what God wants and become arrogant. Both are deadly. Grace allows us to live and make mistakes and make amends and be forgiven and live in freedom. The point of all this is: GOD WANTS TO DRAW CLOSER TO HIS PEOPLE. Rather than trying to live up to God's standards, He says WE CAN'T. JESUS OUR SAVIOUR CAN. NOT ONLY DID GOD CHANGE THE RULES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME, HE'S CHANGED THE ENTIRE SPORT. GOD BECOMES ONE US TO SAVE US IN JESUS AND RESTORE US BACK TO HIS KINGDOM. SO by having our life in Jesus, we do live up to God's standards because we are totally dependent upon Him for everything! This is why Jesus targets anger. Anger is an emotional reaction we humans choose to cope with things. When we get cut off in traffic – we have road rage. When our team loses we want to sack the coach. We want players dropped or traded to other sides. The Prime Minister does something wrong and we expect a new election to be called. Jesus links murder to anger. Not the kind of angry fits we all have at times. Jesus is exposing a disposition of anger; a smoldering kettle of anger that lives just beneath the surface of life – defining the person, bubbling up every now and then, like bitter grudges and past hurts you won't let go of. Churning up the past is deadly. It also leads to sadness or total loss of trust in God and people. Pharisees harboured this kind of anger. It fueled the fire against the oppressive Romans. And by orchestrating a web of duty to make God happy, rules and behaviour measured how faithful a Jew could be. It kept God in a box and removed people from an intimate relationship. Until Jesus comes. This is why Jesus links cheating on your spouse with simple lust in the heart. He links name-calling and cursing with destroying a person. Just thinking you want to be with a person in a bedroom sort of way you're just as guilty and the guy or lady who's actively doing it. Consequences might be different. But the heart is the same. And it's wrong. What a Valentine's Day message of love, huh? It shows us we can only really love when God puts love in us Himself. That's because Jesus wants us trusting in His love for us and our ability to love Him and our family/neighbours. You can't love God and hate your brother. You can't worship God and neglect your neighbour in need. In fact you can't rightly worship God



until you reconcile with your brother or sister. Jesus is a heart-renovator. Change the attitude, the disposition, the outlook. THEN the behaviour will change. Unless we come to face the SOURCE of our brokenness, that brokenness will continue to manifest itself in other ways – it'll leak out into our lives & poison our relationships & all the things we care about & eventually it'll poison the world. But fix the SOURCE & you'll live be rescued from brokenness. Jesus FIXES the source of human brokenness. He becomes the broken one, cut off from love and help from our own Heavenly Father. Left alone to die the penalty for lust and anger and hate and bitterness and indifference and arrogance and all other countless sinful titles. Just as He got cut off in death on the cross which wonderfully draws all of us in to get the goodness from His suffering while our sin is removed. We are cleansed. Made new! Holy, righteous, good. Jesus is perfect. There isn't one law or expectation of God that He could not keep or live or do. He's overcome our inability to live without being angry or lusting or name-calling. It's in our nature to make people objects. It diminishes human value. Jesus comes as a person and restores our image and value. We get baptized into Jesus SO THAT we can have His identity. We are of priceless value. Then when we look at others we are enabled to see their value. And when they see us, they will see the restored image of God in our faces. Jesus fixed our sin-based problem. We have His Spirit and life in ours. We live in His sacrificial, giving, welcoming love. We are marked with His cross in our baptism. He has restored us to love others as we love God and ourself; He has restored us to seek renewal and reconciliation; He has restored us to love with patient, understanding, compassion, forgiveness and grace.

[CATECHISM CLASS Love God and neighbour! Story here – respect, status, etc...]

We are made new and restored.

We become a people of hope, trusting in Jesus, dependent upon Him for everything. And if the rules change in the middle of life's game, we cope with strength from Christ and His abiding presence.

A presence made real and tangible at His Communion table. A meal which celebrates our identity, our unity and our future feast in Heaven. With renewed lives, we can love God,

love ourselves as Christian followers,

love those we are entrusted to care for and love all – for the sake of Christ our Lord.

Who makes all things new again.

Amen.