

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Etna

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 23, 2025
Pastor J.J. Lynn
Judith Erlen, Organist

Introduction

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

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world. Affirmation of Christian Vocation may be used here.

PRELUDE

Prayer—Davis

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

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.

Amen.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

The service continues with gathering song.

GATHERING SONG *Build a Longer Table* (ACS 1062)

The time of gathering song may be brief or extended, and may include one or more of the following: hymns, psalms; a Kyrie; a canticle of praise.

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

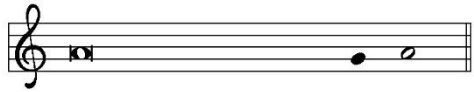
GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

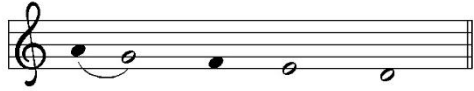
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE ELW Setting Four Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



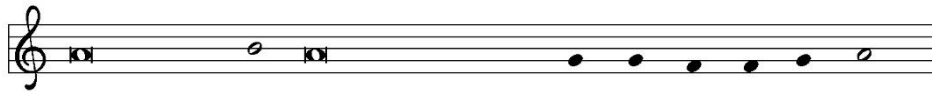
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.


HYMN OF PRAISE *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (ELW 671)

Shine, Jesus, Shine


Refrain




Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;




send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!



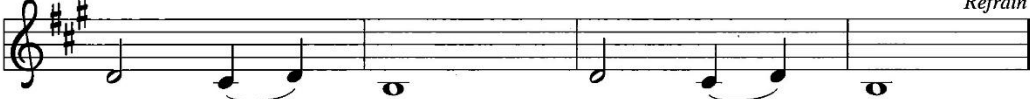
1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to the Chancel area for a brief story and lesson

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Genesis.

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The psalm for the day is read in unison.

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.**
- ² For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.**
- ⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.**
- ⁶ The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil
schemes.**
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.**
- ¹⁰ In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.**
- ³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they
seek refuge.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is 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 physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be 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; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* (ELW 603)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
all the fail - ures we con - fess.
set us free and grant us peace.
make us stron - ger, give us faith.
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

CREED

The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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

A brief silence.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities (*other ministries may be named*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (*especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna*). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and share in a time of fellowship. Please be respectful of others' sensibilities of comfortable interaction.

The Peace of Christ be with you Always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

During the singing of the Communion Hymn an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward. The assembly stands on the last verse.

COMMUNION HYMN I Come with Joy (ELW 482)

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer.

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.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

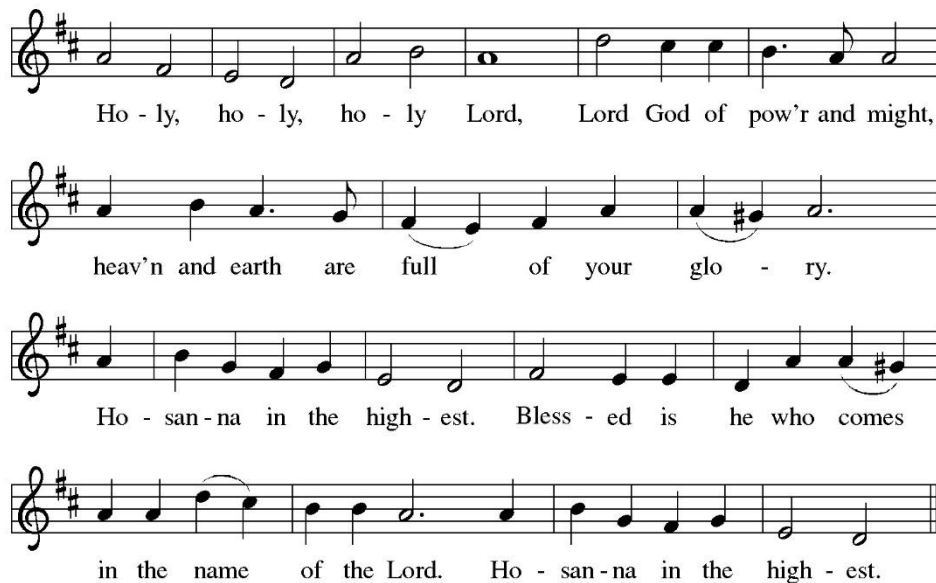
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

COMMUNION

For communion on February 23 we will be offering bread baked by confirmation class. The bread is gluten free but not nut free. Standard wafers and Gluten Free wafers are available as well on February 23. Ingredients of the bread are gluten free all purpose flour, milled flax seed, olive oil, almond flour, honey, salt, baking soda, and baking powder

All people who trust that Christ is present in the Eucharist are welcome to receive communion. Those who do not partake in communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing from the pastor. Gluten-free hosts are available; please tell the pastor if you require one. Grape Juice may be selected in place of wine from the center circle of glasses in the distribution trays. We will commune one side of the congregation at a time, starting with the pulpit side. Please come forward, receive the host, then proceed to the communion assistant to retrieve a pre-filled glass of wine. Trays for the empty glasses are on the other side of the pulpit and piano respectively, on your way back to your seat.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond*

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing, using these or similar words.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (ELW 726)

If "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace" was not sung at the end of the communion, it may be sung here, or another sending song may be sung.

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude in B-flat—Simper/Ryan

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB145099.

Onelicense #731001-A

CCLI # 207004521

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.