

## Ante Communion Service: February 20, 2022 Epiphany 7C

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*Celebrant* Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all creation. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A moment of silence for self-reflection*

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

*People* **Gracious God, have mercy on us.  
We confess that 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; we have not loved all Creation with the love of the Creator.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

*People* **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray together: **O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**First Reading****Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

Joseph 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.

Then 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. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So 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. Hurry 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. You 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. I 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.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42***Noli aemulari*

1 Do not fret yourself because of 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 feed on its riches.**

4 Take delight in the Lord, \*

**and he shall give you your heart's desire.**

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, \*

**and he will bring it to pass.**

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*

**and your just dealing as the noonday.**

7 Be still before the Lord \*

**and wait patiently for him.**

8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*

**the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*

**do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.**

10 For evildoers shall be cut off, \*

**but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*

**you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.**

12 But the lowly shall possess the land; \*

**they will delight in abundance of peace.**

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; \*

**he is their stronghold in time of trouble.**

42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; \*

**he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.**

**Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50**

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 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. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 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. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

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 Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**Luke 6:27-38**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If 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. But 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, 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 of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

## Hymn

### Be Thou My Vision

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word, I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou only first in my heart, high King of heaven, my treasure Thou art*

*High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all*

## Apostles' Creed

*Said by all.*

**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 the People

*Celebrant* With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world; **That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;  
**And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For wisdom in this time of pandemic; **That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.  
*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them. **May they rest in your peace eternally.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you  
and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

**Blessing** May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be in you, and among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

**Dismissal** Go in peace and hope and joy to love and serve God's creation. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

***The Lord Bless You and Keep You [Lutkin]***

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

*The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. Amen....*