**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, February 20, 2022**

*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.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

\***Confession and Forgiveness**

*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,

who creates us,

redeems us,

and calls us by name.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you**

**and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory**

**when it did not appear as we expected.**

**We have rejected your word**

**when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality**

**to those you called us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done**

**and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe**

**in the glory of your Son born among us,**

**and reflect your love for all creation.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:

In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,

adopted into the household of Christ,

and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *Love Divine, All Love Excelling* **ELW 631 v 1-2**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie pg 138**

**\*This is the Feast pg 140**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**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.**

**\*INSTALLATION of St. Olaf Church Council**

**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.*

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God**.

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

*The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)*

 1Do 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.**
 3Put 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.**
 5Commit 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.**
 7Be 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 on- | ly to evil.**
 9For evildoers shall **|** be cut off,
  but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- **|** sess 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.**
 11But the lowly shall pos- **|** sess the land;
  they will delight in abun- **|** dance of peace.
 39**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O Lord;**
  **you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**
 40You, 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**

*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.*

35But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And 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. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
  42So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48As 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. 49Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.
  50What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God**.

**\*Gospel Acclamation**  **pg 142**

**\*Gospel: Luke 6:27-38**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke, the 6th chapter.

**C: 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.”

P: The gospel of our Lord.

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

**Children’s Sermon Emily Wikner**

**Sermon Pastor Emily Sauer**

**\*HYMN** *Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling* **ELW 608**

**\*Apostles Creed p. 105**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

**\*Peace**

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry at St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you!*

**\*Offering Prayer**

Blessed are you, O God,

Sovereign of the universe.

You offer us new beginnings

and guide us on our journey.

Lead us to your table,

nourish us with this heavenly food,

and prepare us to carry your love

to a hungry world,

in the name of Christ our light.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion** *Come to God’s table. There is a place for you and enough for all.*

\***Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy pg 144**

\***Words of Institution**

**\*Lord’s Prayer & Lamb of God pg 146**

**Communion Hymns**  *As the Grains of Wheat*  **ELW 465** *We Come to the Hungry Feast* **ELW 479**

**\*Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God,

for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.

Send us to bring good news

and to proclaim your favor to all,

strengthened with the richness of your grace

in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness,

who rejoices over you,

and who calls you by name,

☩ bless your going out and your coming in,

today and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn Lift High the Cross ELW 660**

**\*Dismissal**

Go with Christ into a weary world.

Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer

Ed director: Emily Wikner

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Viv Nore

Ushers: Mary & Rick Kuhlman, Dave Osterberg

Van Driver: Dennis Gross

Communion Assistants: Viv Nore, David Osterberg, Mary & Rick Kuhlman

South Tech: Marc Matthes, Mark Oester, Bob Younie

**Prayers of Intercession**

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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled (*especially*). God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom (*especially*). As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**