

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 2023 8:45 AM



Welcome GUESTS & VISITORS!

We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Welcome table in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an "I'm New" card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.

Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter to obtain a hearing device.

To request prayers, please fill out the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or hand to one of the clergy. Prayers of the People are written weekly.

They are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.

Loving care is offered in our Nursery, open from 8:30am – 12:15pm (6 months-age 4).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Music for Epiphany 6

Opening Hymn

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Verse 1: The sun comes up it's a new day dawning, It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger, Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus 1: Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name, Sing like never before.
O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.

Verse 3: And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come.
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, Ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Misc 1: (Ending) Worship Your holy name, Lord I'll worship Your holy name.

All standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

Elswick

The musical score for 'Gloria' in 'Elswick' consists of four staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

Glory be to
God the Fa - ther Glo-ry be to God, the Son. And to the Spir-it, the heav-en-ly Dove, the
ev - er - last - ing Three in One. As it was in the be - gin - ning is
now and ev - er shall be world with - out end. A - men - .

The Collect

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Children pre-school through 3rd grade will process to Children's Church.

The Lessons

The First Reading – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm – Psalm 119:1-8

¹*Happy are they whose way is blameless, **
who walk in the law of the LORD!
²*Happy are they who observe his decrees **
and seek him with all their hearts!
³*Who never do any wrong, * but always walk in his ways.*
⁴*You laid down your commandments, **
that we should fully keep them.
⁵*Oh, that my ways were made so direct **
that I might keep your statutes!
⁶*Then I should not be put to shame, **
when I regard all your commandments.
⁷*I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, **
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
⁸*I will keep your statutes; * do not utterly forsake me.*

The Epistle – 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

¹And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.]

Reader The Word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Calmly ♩ = 66 (A1) (A2) (B1) (B2) fine (A1)

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-vation: in him I trust, in him I trust. The

(Repeat 3 times)

The musical notation consists of a single melodic line on a staff. The tempo is marked as 'Calmly' with a tempo of ♩ = 66. The melody is divided into four sections labeled A1, A2, B1, and B2, which are repeated three times at the end. The lyrics 'The Lord is my light, my light and sal-vation: in him I trust, in him I trust. The' are written below the staff. The first two sections (A1 and A2) consist of eighth-note patterns. The third section (B1) starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note pairs. The fourth section (B2) starts with a quarter note followed by eighth-note pairs, leading to a final cadence marked 'fine'. The entire section is repeated three times at the end.

The Holy Gospel – Matthew 5:21-37

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Response Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] ²¹You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Response – *The Lord is My Light*

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

All stand.

***We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.***

Through him all things were made.

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit***

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

***On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.***

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

***We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

Prayers of the People

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray to the Lord of glory, saying, "***Hear our prayer.***"

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Most merciful God,
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 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.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The children will return from Children's Church.

The Peace

All stand.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Elswick

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 3 begins with a melodic line. Measure 7 starts with "God of power and might". Measure 12 begins with "Bless-ed-is he who comes in the". The lyrics are as follows:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord.
God of power and might heav-en 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.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God . . .
 . . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;
And we offer our sacrifice and thanksgiving . . .
 . . . By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor
and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

People and Celebrant

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him
in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music

Here I Am, Lord

Verse 1: I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Verse 2: I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

Verse 3: I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

Text: Isaiah 6; Dan Schutte, b. 1947, Tune: Dan Shutte, arr. By Michael Pope, SJ, John Weissrock 1981

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Hymn

I Saw the Light (verses 1, 2)

Verse 1: I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin. I wouldn't let my dear Savior in.
Then Jesus came – Like a stranger in the night. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Chorus

I saw the light, I saw the light. No more in darkness, no more in night.
Now I'm so happy, no sorry in sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Verse 2: Just like a blind man I wandered along. Worries and fears I claimed for my own. Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

I Saw the Light (verse 3)

Verse 3: I was a fool to wander and stray. Straight is the gate and narrow the way.
Now I have traded the wrong for the right. Praise the Lord, I saw the light.

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