

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 24, 2019



Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Canada

322 East Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 1Z5 (519)742-5812 www.holycrosskitchener.org

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

8:30 & 11:00 am - Divine Services

9:45 am - Sunday School and Bible Classes for All Ages

12:30 pm - Junior Choir

2:00 pm - Nuer Language Service

Call to Worship Bells

Words of Welcome

Hymn

Christ the Eternal Lord *LSB #829 (v. 1-4)*

Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

Invocation & Psalm 103

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Pastor Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**

Pastor who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

People **who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Pastor The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.

People **He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.**

Pastor The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People **He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

Pastor He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People **For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Pastor as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

People **As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

Pastor As Joseph received his brothers in spite of their sin and because of God's gracious care, we are called this day to be renewed by the forgiveness of our sins. Let us then confess our sins to God our gracious Father.

People **Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another by our thoughts, words, and deeds, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By Your grace revealed to us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us Your deliverance and forgiveness. Renew a right heart within us by Your love and mercy. Amen.**

Pastor Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

10,000 Reasons

**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.
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.**

**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.
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.**

**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!
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.**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 45:3-15

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

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God 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 tarry.

¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, 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. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn (8:30)**I know That My Redeemer Lives** LSB #461 (v. 1-2, 7-8)**Anthem***(11:00 Church Choir)***“We Believe”***by Matthew Hooper, Richie Fike, Travis Ryan***Holy Gospel: St. Luke 6:27-38***Pastor* The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.*People* **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁷[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.*People* **Praise to You, O Christ.****Apostles’ Creed**

All **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day**Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service** *LSB #848***Sermon**

St. Luke 6:27-38

“YOUR REAL ENEMY”**Hymn****In Christ Alone**

**In Christ alone my hope is found
 He is my light my strength my song
 This Cornerstone this solid ground
 Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
 What heights of love what depths of peace
 When fears are stilled when strivings cease
 My comforter my all in all
 Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh
 Fullness of God in helpless Babe
 This gift of love and righteousness
 Scorned by the ones He came to save
 'Til on that cross as Jesus died
 The wrath of God was satisfied
 For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
 Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay
 Light of the world by darkness slain
 Then bursting forth in glorious day
 Up from the grave He rose again
 And as He stands in victory
 Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
 For I am His and He is mine
 Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life no fear in death
 This is the pow'r of Christ in me
 From life's first cry to final breath
 Jesus commands my destiny
 No pow'r of hell no scheme of man
 Can ever pluck me from His hand
 'Til He returns or calls me home
 Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand**

Parish Announcements and Gathering of Offering

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Benediction

Pastor **May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.
God, our God, shall bless us.**

People **God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

Pastor **The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.**

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

LSB #924

**Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.**

Officiant	Pastor Roland Syens
Preacher	Pastor Nolan Astley
Organist	Jennifer Massicotte
Church Choir	Jennifer Massicotte (<i>Director</i>), Heather Schein (<i>piano</i>), Philip Massicotte (<i>bass</i>), John Rickert (<i>drums</i>), Brian Hallman (<i>soloist</i>)
Special Music	Braden Fergin (<i>recorder solo</i>)
Acolytes	Alarick Hildebrand (<i>8:30</i>), Kaylee Manuel (<i>11:00</i>)
Sound System	Ken Griffin (<i>8:30</i>), Claude Massicotte & Jack Chuol (<i>11:00</i>)

Prayer Concerns: Today in our prayers we ask God's blessings upon our **upcoming congregational missions** to Ehattesaht, BC and Moncton, NB. May God move hearts to respond to the invitations we have received! Also we remember our **confirmands and youth who are in Retreat this weekend** in Fisherville and the **Men's Retreat** scheduled for next Friday and Saturday. May God grant traveling mercies and a time of growth and fellowship for all. We also remember **Agame Gilo** who has been in hospital this week for surgery.

Adult Bible Class today we continue our unpacking of the 10 Commandments. This week we look at the Sixth Commandment "You shall not commit adultery" In our day and age where anything seems to go, how does that affect our society, our families, our relationships. Join us as we look at how God created us and His plan for us as sexual beings.

Men's Retreat will be held at the **Guelph Bible Centre on March 1 and 2**. The speaker will be Rev. Charles St-Onge, Pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in Montreal. The topic will be Science and the Bible. The cost will be \$125 for lodging, meals and snacks or \$85 if no accommodation is required. **Registration deadline is today!!** Forms are on the Welcome Desk and on the Holy Cross Website.

Mission Information Meeting today **at 12:15 p.m.** in the Library. Come out and learn about the summer mission opportunities to Ehattesaht, BC and Moncton, NB. If you are interested in participating as a leader, young adult, youth, or as a family, please come join us for more information. Members of the 2018 mission teams will also be there to answer questions you may have. Hope to see you there!

Our DPS, Lenora Walden will begin a week of holidays this Friday, March 1 and return to the office Sunday, March 10.

Coming Events...

Youth! – *This Tuesday!* Tubing at Chicopee, 5:00-7:30. \$15. RSVP to Lenora ASAP!

Prime Time – This *Thursday, February 28 from 12:20 – 2:30.* This month we will be learning the history behind the favoured hymn “Amazing Grace” through the 2007 film by the same name. Lunch will be provided!

Lent begins in 10 days on ***Ash Wednesday, March 6*** with Holy Communion services at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. Our Lenten worship services this year will focus on ‘The Sermon on the Mount’.

Pancake Supper will be held ***Ash Wednesday, March 6 at 5:30 pm.*** Please sign-up at the welcome centre.

Sign Up for Easter Plants if you’re willing to donate a hydrangea or lily to beautify our altar for Christ’s Resurrection Day in April. Posters are on bulletin boards around the building. If you want to designate yours as a memorial or thankoffering you still need to sign up on the posted lists, but pick up a form at the Welcome Centre, fill it in, and drop it off in the box outside the church office. The deadline is ***Sunday, March 24.***

Small Group Bible Study –*Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m.* Pastor Gary Weber is leading us verse by verse through Paul’s letter to the Colossians. We started last Tuesday and will run until ***April 30.***

Please Note...

“144 Envelopes” New Youth Fundraiser In the narthex you will see a board covered in envelopes numbered 1-144. We ask that you take an envelope as the Lord moves you, and put in the corresponding amount of money. Envelope 1 means \$1; envelope 2 would be \$2 etc. These contributions are tax eligible for a tax receipt, so please make sure to include your name and/or regular envelope number. We are hoping to have all the envelopes filled and returned ***by February 28.***

Lenten Devotion Booklets are available at the Welcome Centre. Please help yourself to a copy and take one for a friend.

Last Week at Holy Cross...

Sunday Attendance:	96 & 190		
Nuer Attendance:	23	Total 309	('18 – 318)
Communion Attendance:	84 & 154	Total 238	('18 – 247)
Sunday School:	Pupils: 26 Staff: 11	Total 37	('18 – 31)
Adult Bible Class:	Pupils: 54 Staff: 1	Total 55	('18 – 51)
YABS:	Pupils: 5 Staff: 2	Total 7	('18 – 6)

Thankoffering: In honour of **SHIRLEY WENTZLAFF's** birthday to the Facilities Improvement Fund from Bruce & Norene Brubacher. In honour of her birthday to the Children's Library from **JOAN LEITCH-THIBAULT**.

Memorials: In memory of **KAY STAUCH** to Missions from Murray & Norma Herz. To the Unified Church Budget from Verica Ketko. In memory of **GRAHAM POLL** to the Unified Church Budget from Verica Ketko, Norma & Harold Blake. To the Refugee Family Sponsorship from Pamela Martin. To Missions from Virginia Schmidt. In memory of **RUTH SWARTZ** to the Unified Church Budget from Cliff & Sherry Swartz-Hill. In memory of **ADOLF BETKE** to the Unified Church Budget from Mr. & Mrs. David Ongaro, Marko & Grete Dekleva. In memory of **DOROTHY WEBER** to the Refugee Family Sponsorship from Peter Weber.

Weekly Calendar

Monday February 24 to Sunday March 3, 2019

Monday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	10:30 a.m.
	Griefshare, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	ESL, <i>Historic St. Paul's</i>	6:30 p.m.
	Small Group Bible Study, <i>Church Library</i>	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Knotty Ladies, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	9:00 a.m.
	Junior Confirmation, <i>Panel Room</i>	6:15 p.m.
	Senior Confirmation, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	6:15 p.m.
	Board of Church Properties, <i>Church Library</i>	7:00 p.m.
	Board of Worship, <i>Conference Room</i>	7:30 p.m.

Thursday	Beginnings, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prayer Group, <i>Church Library</i>	9:30 a.m.
	Prime Time, <i>Downstairs</i>	12:30 p.m.
	Stephen Ministry Training, <i>Panel Room</i>	3:00 p.m.
	Praise Singers, <i>Church</i>	7:00 p.m.
	Church Choir, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	Nuer Youth & Bible Study, <i>Gym</i>	2:00 p.m.
Sunday	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	
	Holy Communion Service, Church	8:30 a.m.
	Sunday School, <i>Downstairs</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Adult Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	YABS, <i>Conference Room</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Youth Bible Class, <i>Church</i>	9:45 a.m.
	Holy Communion Service, Church	11:00 a.m.
	Junior Choir, <i>Confirmation Classroom</i>	12:30 p.m.
	Nuer Language Service, Church	2:00 p.m.

Acknowledgments: 10,000 Reasons Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman © 2011 Atlas Mountain Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect. Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 524846 / **Christ the Eternal Lord** Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006134 / Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.