**Worship Plan for Sunday, February 24, 2019 Early**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,   
who creates us and forms us,  
who redeems us and calls us,  
who unites us and sends us.  
**Amen.**

Gathered in God’s presence, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty and loving God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ.   
In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.   
Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts,   
and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love.   
Amen.**

Hear the voice of Jesus;  
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives.”   
In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you,   
your sins are forgiven, and you are released.   
The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *This is the Feast (ELW p. 169)*

**GREETING**

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.**

**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.**

*(The reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**The lesson** Genesis 45:3-11; 15

*A reading from the book of 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:*Word of God, word of life.**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*   
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia (ELW p. 171)*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)***THE GOSPEL** Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *God, When Human Bonds are Broken (ELW 603, Vs. 1, 4, 5)*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending,   
the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church,

The world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth: Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations: For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and for all who come to their aid.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need: For those who lack adequate food, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort the grieving, especially….

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly: inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember those who have died. Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.   
**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.  
From before the earth’s foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever.  
Within the earth’s deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might.  
Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.

We praise your Son, our Morning Star, Christ, our diamond bright and treasure dead.  
He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.  
He keeps us yours and fails us never- today, tomorrow, and forever.

On the night before his great salvation,   
He 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

With joy we tell our story.   
**Alleluia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.   
Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son.   
Nourish us as branches of your tree,  
and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.  
Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning,   
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, and never-ending love.  
And so we pray and praise.  
**Amen, amen, amen, amen!**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come. Be filled with the light and life of Jesus, our Lord.  
 **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O Morning Star, fair and bright,  
You have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.   
Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path;   
and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,   
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**Sending Song** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631, Vs 1, 3, 4)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)*

**DISMISSAL**Go in peace. Be light for the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**