

ORDER OF WORSHIP

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast

Liturgist: Pat Nash

PRELUDE:

CHIMING THE HOUR

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Psalm 118 says: **This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.**

Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the Assurance of Pardon

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;**

People: **He is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer

***OPENING PRAYER** Perfect Light of revelation, as You shone in the life of Jesus, whose epiphany we celebrate, so shine in us and through us, that we may become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Amen.

Our first hymn today is:

***HYMN** No. 630 "*Fairest Lord Jesus*" CRUSADERS' HYMN

***CALL TO CONFESSION** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God.

Let us pray together

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we praise Your name. We long to follow in the path You have provided for us but find it hard. We want to show our true devotion to You each week but find it easier to stay in bed on Sunday. Our work often carries us far away from our beliefs and ethics. We are faced daily with choices that involve our faith and our humanity. Forgive us when we make poor choices or fail to follow Your path. We know we are sinful and for that we ask for forgiveness. (Say "**Please pray silently,**" and after a little while say,) In Your Son's name we pray, Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: **Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

You may be seated.

A TIME FOR YOUTH At this time would our youth please come forward.

Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION O God, You spoke Your word and revealed Your good news in Jesus the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming Your joyful promises to all nations and singing of Your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, Your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 37:1-11, please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

People: **Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.**

Leader: **Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.**

People: **Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act.**

Leader: **He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

People: **Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry our evil devices.**

Leader: **Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret – it leads only to evil.**

People: **For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**

Leader: **Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

People: **But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS **Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Genesis 37:3-11, 15 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 34 of the Old Testament**

Genesis 45:1-11, 15

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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The choir will now sing the Anthem:

ANTHEM: *“Tell the Story of Jesus”* by Lloyd Larson

GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 6:27-38 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 64-65 of the New Testament

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ble^ss 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.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Janet Boyanton

Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:

***HYMN** No. 839 “*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!*” ASSURANCE

Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.

***AFFIRMATION** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 “*Glory Be to the Father*” GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen, amen.

You may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

OFFERTORY:

***RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 “*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lord, we are thankful for all the gifts You have given us, food, shelter, medical care, family, friends, and the earth. We are forever grateful for Your greatest gift to humanity, the gift of redemption through Your only Son, Jesus Christ. In all humility we say Amen.

Our last Hymn today is:

***HYMN** No.837 “*What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*” SHOWALTER

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 542 “*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*” GOD BE WITH YOU
God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

***POSTLUDE:**

***Those who are able may stand.**

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church www.desotopresbyterian.org

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TUESDAY – 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group

THURSDAY – 10:00 AM Art Group

NEXT SUNDAY –

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Joe and Lorrinda Alexander

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – continued prayers

The church and nation of Ukraine

Makia's people in Cameroon

DeSoto Food Pantry

Max Jewell is at home, but needs our continued prayers as he is still recovering

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Janet

The Israel-Hamas War

Prayers for those who are hungry and without clean drinking water

People all over the world are hungry, not just for food, but for the word of God.

Travel mercies for Lori as she is on a cruise

Lorrinda was diagnosed with Atrial Flutter

Joan Christy

All the people who lost their homes in the fires in California

Cecil is recovering from partial knee replacement surgery

Family and friends of Clyde Lockhart who passed away. Also his daughter lost one of her 5-week-old twins. The family really needs our prayers.