

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 20, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We've come to worship God, who makes streams flow from rock,

All: who turns the parched earth into springs of water,

Leader: who sends the rain from heaven and makes the wilderness blossom and flourish.

All: As the deer thirsts for flowing streams, so we thirst for You, O God.

Leader: Come, let's worship our life-giving God, who pours out living water on all who thirst.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Shall We Gather at the River

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of living water, we confess the dryness of our lives:

the brittle words we have thought and spoken . . .

the relationships that are crumbling . . .

the arid perspective that centers on self . . .

the cracked and jagged edges of our world . . .

Hear our confession, O Christ,

and rain down your mercy upon us.

We reflect in silence on the ways we have fallen short.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Amen. Jesus says, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of living water." Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding that we may receive the testimony of Scripture and believe in the signs that reveal your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

John 7:37-44

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Waters of Grace

*Sue Poulos, Gay Piller
Joyce Counts, Carol Venn*

SECOND READING

John 7:45-52

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not arrest him?" The police answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this!" Then the Pharisees replied, "Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed." Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at MPChurch.net.

DOXOLOGY

In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as 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 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.**

***HYMN**

How Can I Keep from Singing?

821

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE