



**Love Is All We Need,
6: Called to Love Justice, Do Mercy**

Luke 6:27-38

ORDER OF THE DIVINE SERVICE
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 20, 2022 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. We celebrate our Savior's love in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or, as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

The later Easter falls in March or April, the more Sundays after the Epiphany there are. This year's Epiphany season is long enough to include eight Sundays. In an extended Epiphany season, the light of Christ burns brightest, as Jesus is revealed in action and in teaching through the Gospel writers. There is power when and where Jesus is among His people. May we welcome His presence among us!

All We Need Is Love

Do we overuse the word love, or do we not use it enough? As Christians, do we grasp the immensity of the love that God has given us and the love that we are called to give to others? Throughout the rest of January and into February, we will be taking a closer look at 1 Corinthians 12-13 and three specific stories from Luke's gospel that will guide us as the Body of Christ in the ways that the love of God unites us as His children as well as how it sends us into service to one another and to those God has placed around us. God is love. He is a love that is greater than anything that we could ever imagine, and He is the love that makes us one as the Body of Christ for the Mission of Christ to bring love to the world.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Be Exalted, O God – arr. D. Wagner

Heavenly Handbells

GREETING

❖ INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

❖ HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LSB 793

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**2. Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hand He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.**

**4. Angels, help us to adore Him; You behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, All who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.**

Text (sts. 1-4) and Tune: Public domain.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS

John 20:21-23

P Our help is in the Name of the Lord,
C Who made Heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and

praise, and receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite Mercy of God, our Heavenly Father, seeking His Grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to Everlasting Life. Amen.**

❖ **ABSOLUTION**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

❖ **KYRIE**

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us
pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You,

C **mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 45:3-15 [ESV]

(Joseph forgives his brothers.)

³ And Joseph 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.

⁴ So 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.

⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry
with yourselves because you sold me
here, for God sent me before you to
preserve life.

⁶ For 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.

⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸ So 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.

⁹ Hurry 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.

¹⁰ You 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.

¹¹ There 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.'

¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them.

After that his brothers talked with him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13 [ESV]

(In His mercy, the Lord delivers us.)

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

Women *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,*
Men *who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,*

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

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

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

Women *He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.*

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

Men *He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.*

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

Men *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;*

Women *as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.*

All **As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42 [ESV]

(Paul teaches regarding the resurrection of the dead.)

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour?

³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

³² What 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.”

³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

³⁴ Wake 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.

³⁵ But someone will ask,
 “How are the dead raised?
 With what kind of body do they come?”

³⁶ You foolish person!
 What you sow does not come to life
 unless it dies.

³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that
 is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of
 wheat or of some other grain.

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has
 chosen, and to each kind of seed its own
 body.

³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is
 one kind for humans, another for animals,

another for birds, and another for fish.

⁴⁰ There 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.

⁴¹ There 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.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

❖ ALLELUIA AND VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

❖ HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38 [ESV]

(Jesus teaches about loving enemies.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear,
Love your enemies, do good to those who
hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.

²⁹ To 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.

³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you,
and from one who takes away your goods
do not demand them back.

³¹ And 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.

³³ And if you do good to those who do
good to you, what benefit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same.

³⁴ And 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.

³⁵ But 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.

³⁶ Be 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;

³⁸ give, 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

HYMN

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

LSB 814

1. O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.
2. O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!
3. 'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.
4. He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
5. He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for the oppressed.
6. His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.

Text (sts. 1-6) and Music: Public domain.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder. © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Called to Love Justice, Do Mercy

Luke 6:27-38

(Sermon Notes on Page 16)



CREED

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into Heaven
and sits at the Right Hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory
to judge both the living and the dead,
whose Kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and Giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the ✠ Life of the world to come. Amen.

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex. Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pads.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

No Other Name – arr. D. Wagner

Heavenly Handbells

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

In holy conversation, we pray for the Church, the Bride of Christ, that through her the message of salvation be proclaimed and the gifts of God be shared,

C and we pray this day for all nations of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness everywhere prevail.

P We pray for our families and our neighbors.

C Embolden us to reach out in every direction with the joyful news of the Gospel that people may become part of the kingdom of God now and forever.

P We pray for the hospitalized and those who are shut-in during this season.

We pray for the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our petitions are desired, [including . . .].

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P As a community of God's well-loved people in Christ, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this life in joyful hope.

C Confidently, we await the time when we shall rejoice together with all the saints eternally along with the angels and all the company of heaven.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Jesus, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

❖ LORD'S PRAYER

C 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**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
 The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

C Amen.

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

+ + + + + + +

Acknowledgments

Portions of the liturgy from *CREATIVE WORSHIP for the Lutheran Parish @* Concordia Publishing House. UBP
 Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission.
Kyrie, Text: Public domain; Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House
Gloria in Excelsis, Text: © 2001 Stephen P. Starke; Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House
Sanctus, Text: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House; Setting: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House
Agnus Dei, Text: © 1998 Concordia Publishing House; Setting: Public domain
 Unless otherwise stated, Scripture taken The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by
 Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”
 Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Servants in Worship

PreacherRev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Presiding Minister.....Rev. Zach Sarrault
Organist/Director.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Heavenly Handbells
Lector.....Lynn Miller



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
rlcary.org
919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Love Is All We Need, 6: Loving Justice, Doing Mercy (Luke 6:27-38)
Epiphany 7, Series C

Wherever people rub shoulders with one another, the rules governing human interaction get broken, sooner or later. Showing mercy to the rule breaker appears to be “losing.” Jesus calls us to love justice while doing mercy. His is not a call to ignore the rules. It is rather, to rely on God’s power to love the rule-breaker and lean into God’s strength to forgive. How will the world be different when God works in us to interrupt the cycle of hate for hate?

1. **Our sermon series closes today: _____ is all we _____.** Scripture readings highlight two core values at RLC: the love of God in Christ (a) enables us each to grow spiritually and (b) love our families that they might grow spiritually, too.
2. **Loving those who _____ us and hating (or at best avoiding) those who _____ us: this is the ordinary way of the world (6:32-34).** It is predictable. It perpetuates vicious cycles. Though it may accomplish a measure of tit-for-tat “fairness,” it requires us to work at measuring and judging and holding on to grudges.
3. **Jesus _____ and repeatedly confronted those who tried to place themselves _____.** Jesus was not afraid to rebuke the self-righteous (16:15). He denounced those using the temple for dishonest gain (19:46). He lived and taught among those who recognized the need to deal with one another *fairly*.
4. **Yet Jesus gave up His life _____: He was (and is) the obedient Son of God who _____ the ones _____ Him and _____ the ones _____ Him (23:34).** Though it was anything but “fair” for Him, Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price for our own lack of mercy. His resurrection from the dead brings hope that God can and does relax the clenched fist at the center of the human heart.
5. **We do not live as if the Law isn’t important. But loving justice and doing mercy, we live more and more as people in whom the _____ of the crucified and risen _____ now lives to enjoy and share the blessed “_____” of God’s love!** “Fairness” is no longer our only focus. We love the people in our lives who loves us and don’t love us. We strive to sacrificially love even those who hate us. What freedom there is to be gained in giving up the need to keep score and leaving the judgements to God.