

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

p. 117

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Gloria, Gloria, Gloria”p. 176

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.**

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

SECOND LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

VERSE: Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 6:27-38

REFLECTION – Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.

HYMN #631 ELW “Love Divine All Loves Excelling”

APOSTLES CREED

p. 127

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (*especially*).

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need, including Meals for Friends.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us especially Ardys and Georgetta. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

SHARING PEACE

OFFERING Song

"Allelu, Allelu"

HOLY COMMUNION WITH LORD'S PRAYERp. 129

BENEDICTION – The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship

WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**

Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**

Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**

President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Pr. Norm M., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Judy H., Kirk D., Noah, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Jeffery, Don W., Mindy, Nancy, Aligha, Ron R., Zach F., Katie, Ed, Tyler C., Nan, Sandra, Lisa, Marlene, Bill, Amy, Tony, Patty N., Marylene, Yuri, Roy, Leilani, Lynn F., Pr. Tony, Shelly, Debbie, Myschal, Dawn, Danny M., Dr. Simek, Pr. Dona, Pete, Alex, Barbara, Cheyanne & Whitney & Whitney's mother, Anna, Amanda & baby, Holly, & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Ardys Theophilus, Georgetta Colton.

NURSING HOME / ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Beatty Point); June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Harmarville Village).

CAREGIVERS: Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rebecca, Darlene, Elaine.

EMPLOYMENT: Derrick, Yelisbeth, Cassie, Tyler.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Republic of the Congo

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Zion Penn Hills

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Camp Agapé

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Woodland Hills High School

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

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.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers;

do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, 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.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do 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. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If 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. ³⁵ But 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. ³⁶ Be 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; ³⁸ give, 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."

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