

EPiPHany

moments

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 ✕ 8:00 AND 10:15 AM

50 PRINCE OF PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

We're thrilled that you are here and we want you to feel at home.

- * Restrooms are near the door that you came in today.
- * The service is printed in this worship folder. Join in as your comfortable. Ask anyone if you're lost - they'll be glad to help!
- * We're glad you brought your kids! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If your little one is restless, feel free to spend a minute in the entryway, you should still be able to hear through speakers.
- * If you could use some hearing assistance, please ask the usher in the entryway, we have headsets available.



Please introduce yourself to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil. They would love to meet you and serve you however they can!

Epiphany Moments - Love Your Enemies; Overcome Evil with good

Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet, have we not seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily evil with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he has won us for himself.

Following the strategy Jesus lays out today is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it!

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type. 

HYMN 728 This Is My Will

Please stand.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our
loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed - for your
grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry,
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly,
might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the glo - ry
ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-15

The account of Joseph forgiving the brothers that had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with

yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there,

because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

¹²“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 607 Ten Thousand Reasons

This hymn echoes themes of Psalm 103: the Lord’s compassionate, forgiving love is all-consuming and life changing. We love and bless his name because he first loved us.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:14-21

Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggression. Yet he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear

friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:44,45

Alleluia. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

In our interactions with others Jesus calls us to disregard what people deserve. Instead we are to show the same grace that God has shown to us.

But to you who are listening I say:
Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 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? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners,

expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and 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 and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY 729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

SERMON Luke 6:27-28 Love. Bless. Pray. Forgive.

Please stand

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,**

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

We pray for...

Harry (Nancy Brandt's brother-in-law with serious health struggles), Frankie (Robyn's young friend with cancer), Tim (Paul and Emma Porter's brother-in-law with cancer), Chaunc (Krystal's son), Nathan (Zahn's nephew on military deployment), JoElla (recovering from radiation treatment), Craig (chronic back issues), Janice and Julia (cancer diagnosis), Paul (Pam Farrel's nephew with serious health issues), Angie (Mert and Francine's daughter with health issues), Mona (health issues) and Crissy (cancer), Amy Biedenbender (Divine Call to Madison, WI)

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

OFFERING



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

*To donate online, either scan the QR code on the left or text **princeofpeace** (no spaces) to **(833) 693-7056**. You'll receive a link in response. Follow the link to the Prince of Peace secure giving page.*

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with

repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

HYMN 767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

HYMN 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Your ✚ sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Stand

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN 731 Oh, How Good It Is



Thank you to Kryssi Heckman for using her gifts to serve us and our Savior with music this morning!

Lutheran worship is like a culture all on its own because, having visited that land and having breathed its cleansing air, we do inevitably come back to our own regular lives. And just like returning home from time abroad, we find this home, this world of ours, is changed. We see it with new eyes. Upon leaving the Christian sanctuary, we are able to see through the countless false versions of human thriving in this disenchanted world. We are no longer fooled by the secular illusion. We find more and more that we don't quite fit in here, not anymore. "Not from around here, are you?" says this present evil age, more every passing day. No, we are not.

We gladly share in the disgrace of Jesus Christ, the weakness and the foolishness of God. We dress ourselves in him. And while some will love us for it, many more will hate us because they hated him first. So be it. We know what we know. And we must answer according to the grace we learn in church and with a godly social concern. We must be the ones who care what happens to people both in this world and the next.

One thing more. We come home from church and return to our regular lives with the

perspective of eternity. This is no small thing. We, at our best, have our hearts set on things above. We look for a better country, a heavenly one. Every service has a way of putting us on our backs like children lying on a grassy lawn. We just look up. We let the great blue fill our view.

This is key to the blessed re-enchanting of life that begins in church. Something is going on among the "twos or threes" in those rare, scattered moments that we do not make happen. It came to us with a line in a hymn, at the crescendo of the choir, or as the pastor paused to regain his composure. These were the glimpses we could not hold onto, that stabbing joy that is a longing so beautiful it hurts. The smallest bit of *there* is breaking into *here*.

continued next week....

Mark Paustian, *Our Worth To Him - Devotions for Christian Worship*

