



**WELCOME TO**



**GLORIA DEI**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

# **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

## **February 23, 2025**

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.

**We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.**

[www.gloriadeielca.com](http://www.gloriadeielca.com)

## **Prelude: Voluntary**

### **WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

### **P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations  
of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,  
**against you, you alone,  
we have sinned.**  
**In your compassion,  
cleanse us from our sin  
and take away our guilt.  
Create in us a new heart**

**and give us a steadfast spirit.  
Do not cast us away,  
but fill us with your Holy Spirit  
and restore your joy within us.**

**Amen**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW 479 “We Come to the  
Hungry Feast”**

**P: GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE: ELW 155 “Kyrie Eleison” Russian  
Orthodox**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 167 “Now the Feast and  
Celebration”**

## **P: PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray....

*A brief silence is kept for our own intentions.*

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.**

*All respond: **Amen.***

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

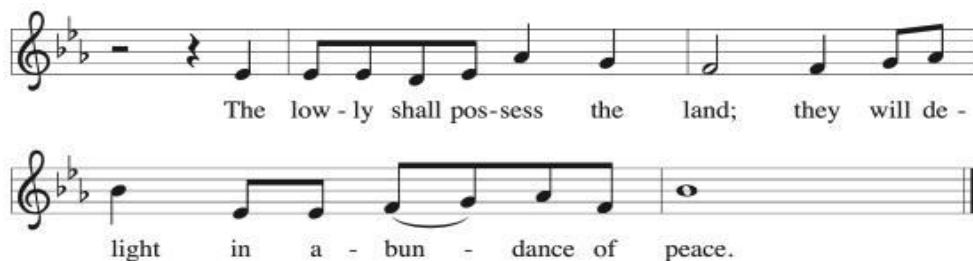
### **FIRST READING: GENESIS 45:3-11, 15**

*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.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40



Psalm 37:11

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- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in  
the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as  
the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday  
sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

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

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil. R**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

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

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

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

<sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver  
them, because in you | they seek refuge. **R**

## **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.*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174 "Celtic Alleluia"**

### **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.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 717 "Let Justice Flow like Streams"**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

### **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which he has given you.

## **OFFERTORY: ELW 677 "This Little Light of Mine"**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer. Please stand at the invitation to pray:*

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. **Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS: ELW 191 "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE, EPIPHANY**

*The presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer*

*At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:*

**Amen.**

**\*The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)**

*(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).*

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW 197 "O Lamb of God"**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).*

*The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.*

*The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non.-alcoholic juice (small chalice). Worshipers may receive Communion via "intinction," dipping the Host into the Chalice, or by common cup, on the PULPIT side of the Altar. If you're on the Pulpit side, you may also feel free to intinct. The other chalice is for intinction ONLY.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

*The body of Christ, given for you.*

*The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*The appropriate response is:*

*Amen.*

*During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.*

**Hymn: ELW 723 "Canticle of the Turning"**

**Choir: I Need Thee Every Hour**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please stand at the invitation to pray:*

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, At this table you have refreshed us  
With holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for  
service, and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God,  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 535 "Hallelujah! We Sing  
Your Praises"**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: Voluntary**

*The end of Worship –  
The beginning of Christian Ministry.*

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## ***SERVING TODAY***

**Pastor:** Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara  
**Music Director:** Len Cremisio  
**Asst. Ministers:** 9:30 a.m.  
    Reader: Loraine Van Heceke  
    Crucifer: Julian Menchaca  
    Communion Assistant:  
    Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler  
**Ushers:** 9:30 a.m. Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick  
    Craig Carlson, John Kelly  
**Altar Care:** Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick, Craig Carlson  
**Post Worship Sec.:** 9:30 a.m. Julie Eld  
**Counters:** Arlene Kelly  
**Greeters:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Fellowship:**

**Communion Wine:** for February is given to the Glory of God

**Altar Flowers:** Jean Talts In loving memory of all the saints

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