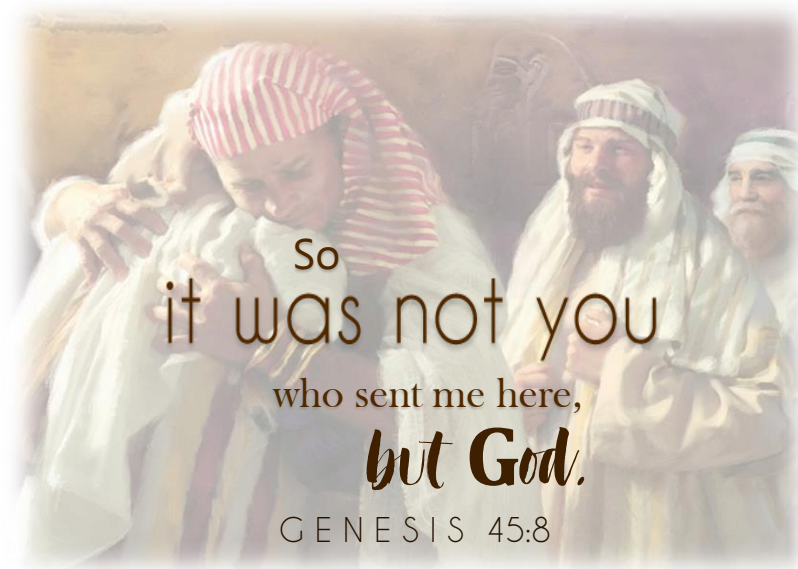


The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday – February 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

(In-Person & Live -Streamed)



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL – 60450

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† Call to Worship †

Greeting

Opening Hymn # 793 (v. 1-3) "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Tune #367



1 Praise my soul, the King of Heav - en; To His feet your
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple
3 Fa - ther - like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
trib - ute bring; Ran-somed, heal'd, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
Ev - er - more His prais - es sing:
Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Res - cues us from all our foes.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness!
Wide - ly yet His mer - cy flows!

Hymn #793: Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847 Tune: John Goss, 1800-80 Text and tune: Public domain
Hymn #367: Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19-23]

- 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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

\dagger Service of the Word \dagger

Responsive Reading Psalm 103:1-13

- P**¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
- P**²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and forget not all his benefits,
P³who forgives all your iniquity,
C who heals all your diseases,
P⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
C who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
P⁵who satisfies you with good
C so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- P**⁶The LORD works righteousness
C and justice for all who are oppressed.
- P**⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
C his acts to the people of Israel.
- P**⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- P**⁹He will not always chide,
C nor will he keep his anger forever.
- P**¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- P**¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- P**¹²as far as the east is from the west,
C so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
- P**¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
C so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
- ALL** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect 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, 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 45:3-15

³ 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.

⁴So 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. 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God 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 tarry. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹There 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.’ ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And 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.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What 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.” ³³Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴Wake 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.

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, 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. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There 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. ⁴¹There 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.

⁴²So 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.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

Musical notation for Alleluia and Verse. The first line of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the first line, the lyrics are: **C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the. The second line of music continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes. Below the second line, the lyrics are: words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To 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. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And 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.

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

³⁴And 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. ³⁵But 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. ³⁶Be 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; ³⁸give, 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.

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn #760 "What God Ordains Is Always Good"



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is
2 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er
3 What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing
4 What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my



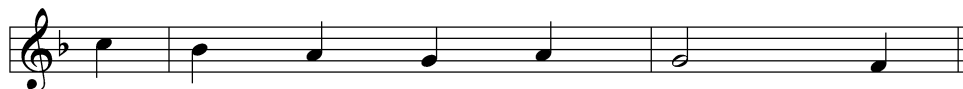
just and ho - ly. As He di - rects my life for me,
will de - ceive me; He leads me in His righ - teous way,
thought at - tends me; No poi - son can be in the cup
friend and Fa - ther; He suf - fers naught to do me harm



I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed
And nev - er will He leave me. I take con - tent
That my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true;
Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know



In ev - 'ry need Knows well how He will shield me;
What He has sent; His hand that sends me sad - ness
Each morn - ing new I trust His grace un - end - ing,
Both joy and woe; Some - day I shall see clear - ly



To Him, then, I will yield me.
Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
My life to Him com - mend - ing.
That He has loved me dear - ly.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646–82, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Our God Works His Wonders . . ."

Sermon Text: Genesis 45:4-8

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

C 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 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Offerings are brought to the LORD's altar as we sing:

Offertory

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; Who has taught 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.

Please stand

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958 Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden
Text: Public domain / Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One & Four from Lutheran Service Book

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