



heartlight.org



Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell
in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

- Psalm 37:3 -

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

**Pastor Willie Rosin's Email
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Presiding Minister – Rev. Willie Rosin
Assisting Minister – Kathleen Schippers
Music Minister – Charles Potter

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church on this seventh Sunday after Epiphany. 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.

Thank you for joining us! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a Visitor Card, located in your pew rack, if you would like to have us contact you.

We practice an open communion table at Zion. All who believe in Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion with us, from the youngest to the oldest members of the body of Christ present in worship.

Children are welcome to fully participate in worship. What could be better than the whole family of God being together in worship? There are Children's worship bags available near the usher's table in the narthex. Should you or your child need a break, there is a nursery located across from Fellowship Hall for your use.

Nursing mothers are welcome to use the Mothers' Room, just one door down the hall from the nursery. Please knock before entering.

+ Indicates that you are invited to rise as you are able

BOLD PRINT INDICATES CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

Hymn numbers are the large numbers at the top of the page in the red hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, which is located in the pew racks.

Thank you for silencing all electronic devices.

PRELUDE

<i>Come, Ye Thankful People, Come</i>	<i>Charles Callahan</i>
<i>O Holy Spirit, Root of Life</i>	<i>David N. Johnson</i>
<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	<i>Gerhard Krapf</i> Charles Potter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELL CALLING US TO WORSHIP

GATHERING †

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

+ GATHERING HYMN

Bring Peace to Earth Again

ELW 700



- 1 Where ar - mies scourge the coun - try - side, and peo - ple flee in fear,
- 2 Where an - ger fes - ters in the heart, and strikes with cru - el hand;
- 3 Where homes are torn by bit - ter strife, and love dis - solves in blame;
- 4 O God, whose heart com - pas - sion - ate bears ev - 'ry hu - man pain,



where si - rens scream through flam - ing nights, and death is ev - er near:
where vio - lence stalks the trou - bled streets, and ter - ror haunts the land:
where walls you meant for shel - t'ring care hide deeds of hurt and shame:
re - deem this vio - lent, wound - ing world till gen - tle - ness shall reign.



O God of mer - cy, hear our prayer: bring peace to earth a - gain!

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. 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.**

+ 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 157

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

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

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us pray: 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.

‡ WORD ‡

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph 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.

⁴ Then 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. 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 five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ 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 delay. ¹⁰ You 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. ¹¹ I 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.' " ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

]The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹ Do 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.**

³ Put 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.**

⁵ Commit 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.**

⁷ Be 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.**

⁹ For 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.**

¹¹ But 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.**

⁴⁰ 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.

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

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And 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. ³⁸ But 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON**+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Halle, Halle, Hallelujah***ELW 172**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

+ GOSPEL READING**Luke 6:27-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

[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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

***God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* ELW 603**



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

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COMMUNION FAITH STEPPING STONES PRESENTATION

Maura Garrett and Lydia Rosin

*At this time I invite forward the following siblings in Christ and their parents:
Maura Garrett and Lydia Rosin*

These are our members who have completed communion instruction this year and I am thankful for Dave Pusateri and Stacey Ramos for leading these classes.

PRESIDING MINISTER

Parents – when your children were baptized, you promised to faithfully bring them to the services of God’s house, to teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith. Do you promise to continue fulfilling these promises and to trust in God to help you?

If so, please answer, **“I do, and I ask God to help me.”**

ASSISTING MINISTER

Congregation, will you continue to support and assist these parents in teaching the Christian faith and support them as they raise these children in the Christian faith?

If so, please answer, **“We will”**

PRESIDING MINISTER

Lydia and Maura – as baptized children of God who believe and trust in the words, “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” you are well-prepared to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Jesus invites you to his table to joyfully receive his gracious presence in Holy Communion. Do you believe that when you receive Christ’s body and blood in Holy Communion that Jesus Christ comes to you forgives your sins, and strengthens your faith? If so, please answer, **“I believe.”**

ASSISTING MINISTER

Let us pray. God, your son, Jesus Christ, loved children and called them to him. We ask for your blessing on these young people and to strengthen them in faith as they eat at your Table, so that they may be a blessing for others and honor the body of Christ. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PRESIDING MINISTER

Please kneel at the communion rail for a blessing

May the presence of Jesus in the Lord’s Supper strengthen you as you continue on your faith journey.

+ APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess of faith using the words of the 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

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

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy

***Congregational response:* 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 OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always

And also with you.

‡ **MEAL** ‡

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Thank you for supporting God's ministry and mission through the people of Zion Lutheran Church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

We have online giving options available through Tithe.ly which allows you to give through the app, online, and even make weekly, biweekly, or monthly donations on a regular schedule. To give right now, please scan the QR code below to make a contribution.

If you are interested in electronic giving options, please contact the church office.



MUSICAL OFFERING *As We Gather at Your Table* Theodore Beck **Charles Potter**

+ OFFERING PRAYER

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.

+ 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

+PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – ELW 191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the Night

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language of your heart:

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW 697

When Our Song Says Peace

ELW 709

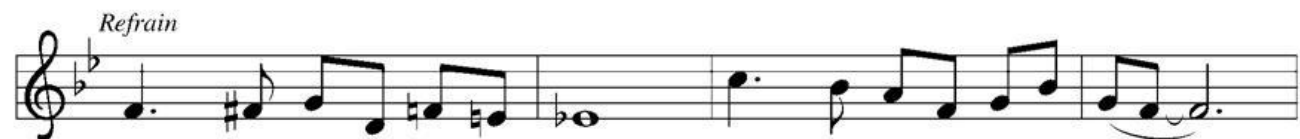
Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

ELW 707

ELW 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

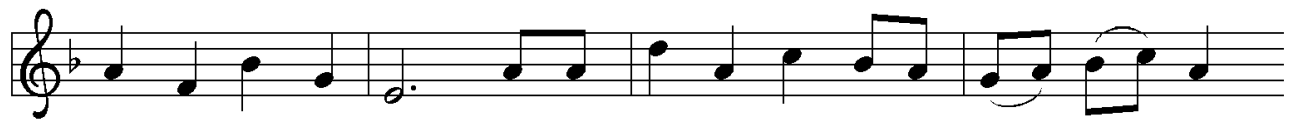


I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

ELW 709



- 1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
- 2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
- 3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
 sing de - spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
 who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.
 who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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ELW 599

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

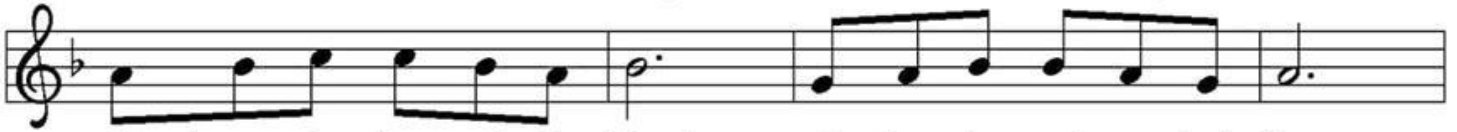
Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
 Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

ELW 707*Refrain*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

+ POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, † now and forever.

Amen

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

‡ **SENDING** ‡

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

+ BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

‡ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love. **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

ELW 835



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

+Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *On What Has Now Been Sown* George Theophilus Miles **Charles Potter**

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