



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The February Noisy Offering collection will go to the UN Disaster Relief Fund, chosen by our Confirmation class.

The flowers today are from Ron & Nancy Brown, in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Happy Anniversary!



Upcoming Commemorations

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 835, vs. 1-3

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alle-
luia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Allelu-
ia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:

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Greeting page 98

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 Pg. 98

HYMN OF PRAISE page 101

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 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.

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: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

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

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

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.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 102

Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 6th Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 650

In Christ There Is No East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.

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.

A brief silence.

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 in our communities. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us, *especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna*. 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.

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you

Let us share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg. 182

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy pg. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 112



COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;

when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

ELW 470

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

- 1 Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now your garment's hem.
- 2 As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver
break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

so now bind our friendship up.

- 3 All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We will serve with faith anew.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
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

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 841, vs. 1 & 3

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heav-
en ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning
skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark
past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the pre-
sent has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

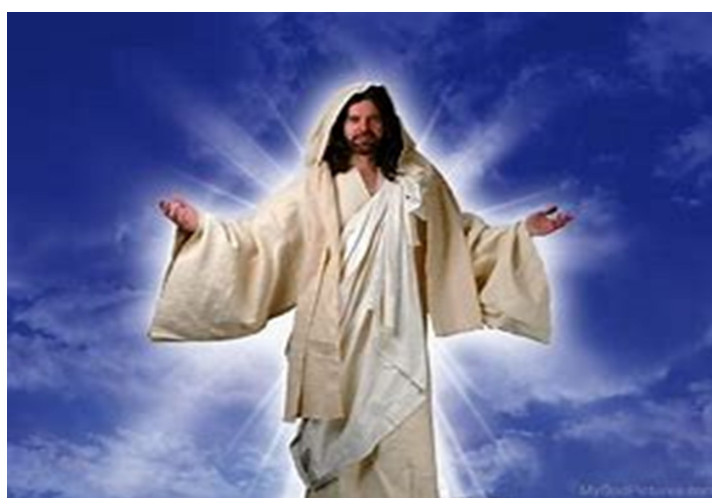
3 God of our weary years, God of our silent
tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the
way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the
light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our
God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the
world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand may we for-
ever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

Donna & Ron Frenzl,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
George McElroy,
Janet Schmidt,

Family & friends:

Family of Marj Weeg, sister-in-law of Mary & Jim Weeg,
Nancy Harris, friend of Nancy Brown,
Father in law of Pam Thomas,
Liz Sutlick , friend of Amy Hackler,
Karis , granddaughter of Jim & Mary Weeg,
Family of Craig Aldag, uncle of Ali & Chuck Luin,
Great uncle of Ethan Luin & Zoey Biggins (Luke & Cody)
Eric Ohman, family friend of Joni & Steve Benz,
Family of Scott Toth, associate of Chris McMullin,
Marilou Osborne, cousin of Joni Benz,
Jim Severson, friend of Joe VanKempen,
Carol, stepmom of Tom Bryer,
Brad, son of Jim & Mary Weeg,
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,
Jules Rudigier, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,
El Haddad, Semaan, and Nassar families & friends in
Lebanon, extended family & friends of Fetsch family,
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,
Peggy, cousin of Jane Scherrer,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Fran Besser, friend of Joni & Steve Benz,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,
Tammy Strampe, Daughter-in-law of Barbara
Strampe,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,

Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,
Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Good-
heart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Good-
heart,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
All People affected by natural disasters

Those in the Military:

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thomp-
son,