

Faith Lutheran Church
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Seventh Sunday of Epiphany
February 23, 2025

Hymns: 493 522 459:1,2,4,5
313:1-3,13 233:1-4

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TODAY'S DIVINE SERVICE

(Rite II—pp. 60-85, *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

A HYMN 493 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,”
You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.

2 How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart?

3 In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us;
How great our debt to you!

4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love
Our lives will spread your peace.

THE INVOCATION (*Stand*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

C: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord:

Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT Psalm 18

P: The pangs of death encompassed me, the sorrows of hell surrounded me. The floods of ungodliness made me afraid. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and He heard my voice from His temple.

THE GLORIA PATRI

C: ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

THE KYRIE ELEISON (Lord, have mercy)

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

C: ♪ Glory be to God on high:

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT (Prayer for the Day)

P: O Lord, we beseech You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people, that we who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your gracious goodness, for the glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:3-15

³ And 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. ⁴ So 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." 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And 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 tarry." ¹⁰ You 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. ¹¹ There 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.' ¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed

all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

THE GRADUAL **Psalm 9**

P: The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble: Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. But the needy will not always be forgotten: nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish. Arise, O Lord, and let not man triumph.

THE EPISTLE: **Romans 12:14-21**

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

THE ALLELUIA (*Stand*)

C: ♪ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL **Luke 6:27-38**

P: The Holy Gospel for this Sunday is written...

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To 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. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And 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. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And 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. ³⁵ But 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. ³⁶ Be 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; ³⁸ give, 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 Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ.

THE CREED Nicene Creed

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,

Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life † of the world to come. Amen.

CHIEF HYMN: 522 “O Faithful God, Thanks Be to Thee” (*Sit*)

1 O faithful God, thanks be to Thee
Who dost forgive iniquity.
Thou grantest help in sin's distress,
And soul and body dost Thou bless.

2 Thy servant now declares to me:
"Thy sins are all forgiven thee.
Depart in peace, but sin no more
And e'er My pard'ning grace adore."

3 O Lord, we bless Thy gracious heart,
For Thou Thyself dost heal our smart
Through Christ, our Savior's precious blood,
Which for the sake of sinners flowed.

4 Give us Thy Spirit, peace afford
Now and forever, gracious Lord.
Preserve to us till life is spent
Thy holy Word and Sacrament.

THE SERMON: “Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good” Romans 12:14-21

THE OFFERTORY VERSE (*Stand*)

C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

OFFERING

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Stand*)

P: Let us pray for the Church and all people according to their needs: Almighty God and Father, we thank You for all Your goodness and tender mercies, especially for the gift of Your dear Son, through whom You have revealed Your grace. We pray that You would plant Your Word in our hearts that we may cling to it in faith and bear much fruit in well doing.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Strengthen and defend Your Church, that by Your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all increase. Guide and protect all who spread abroad the light of Your truth throughout the world. Bless the schools, colleges, and seminaries of the Church that they may send forth laborers to serve in the ministry of Your Word, in the ministry of mercy, and in all godly walks of life. Let the light of Your Word shine continually in our homes. Keep the children of the Church in the grace of their Baptism, and grant that all entrusted with their care may bring them up in true faith and obedience to Your will.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You, let them shout for joy because You defend them.

P: Guide and bless all lawful authority, especially our President, the Congress, and the Governor and legislators of this state. Give them wisdom and sound judgement, that justice may prevail and wickedness be hindered and punished.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our Helper.

P: We commend into Your care all who are in trouble, want, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those who are suffering for Your name and Your truth. Comfort them, O God, with Your Holy Spirit, that in all their afflictions they may acknowledge Your fatherly will and rejoice in Your gracious and speedy deliverance.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your name.

P: Let Your blessing rest upon seed time and harvest, on commerce and industry, on medicine and science; sanctify the arts and culture, the rest and leisure of Your people. Protect all who travel, and care for all whose labor is difficult or dangerous. Bless all who in their daily calling endeavor to do Your will, and give them the assurance that their work is pleasing in Your sight.

C: Blessed are You, O Lord, for You have not turned away from our prayer!

(Special intercessions may be added)

P: Protect our bodies and souls from all harm and danger; support us in our last hour with

Your mercy; and finally admit us into Your eternal joy, to love and serve You in the blessed company of Your saints and angels forevermore; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. The righteous cry out and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Service of Holy Communion

Our Communion Practice.

Faith Lutheran Church practices closed communion, admitting to the Lord's Supper only those who are members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) or of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We ask that all others refrain from communing out of respect for our practice.

If you would like to receive a blessing during the Lord's Supper, please come forward and signify by crossing your arms across your chest. Please speak with our Pastor if you have questions. Thank you.

A HYMN: 459 vv. 1,2,4,5 **"Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us"** *(Sit)*

1 Lord of Glory, who hast bought us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own.
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

THE PREFACE *(Stand)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

THE PROPER PREFACE AND SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; and now we praise You that You sent us Your only begotten Son and that in Him, being found in fashion as a Man, You manifested the fullness of Your Glory Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE 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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My † blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PAX DOMINI (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION (Sit)

A HYMN: 313 vv. 1-3,13 "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;

Thou, Bread of Life, alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 O grant that I in manner worthy
May now approach Thy heav'nly Board
And, as I lowly bow before Thee,
Look only unto Thee, O Lord.

Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,

Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful Shepherd art.

Refrain

13 Who can condemn me now? For
surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise.

Refrain

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (*Stand*)

C: ♪ Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen

THE COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

C: ♪ And his mercy endures forever.

P: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

THE SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give † you peace.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 233 vv. 1-4 “The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”

1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That we might thus be justified.

3 It brings the Savior's righteousness
Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.

2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made th'atoning sacrifice,
And call the souls with guilt opprest
To come and find eternal rest.

4 It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.

Epiphany: Meaning & Purpose

The word Epiphany means “to make known”. At Christmas we journeyed with the shepherds to see the Baby in the manger. Now, in Epiphany we journey with the wise men, and the full nature of the Christ Child is made known to us. Epiphany reminds us that the Son of Mary is also the Son of God, the Savior of all people. Each week of Epiphany reveals this to us with increasing clarity, from the Child worshipped by wise men, to the Boy Jesus in the temple “about His Father’s business,” to the Man Jesus who reveals His deity through His miracles. The Second Person of the Trinity has broken into our earthly world. God has appeared among us

Sunday School Lessons

2/23 - Paul’s Shipwreck

Acts 27:9-44

3/2 - Paul Writes to Timothy II Timothy 3:14-17

3/9 - Jesus Will Return

Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 22:6-21

CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS for February 23, 2025

Monday 6:30 PM: **Men’s Fellowship - Axe Throwing**

Tuesday 6:30 PM: **Gospel Outreach Meeting**

Wednesday 9:30 AM: **Women’s Bible Study - Revelation**

7:00 PM: **Men & Women’s Bible Study - Revelation**

Sunday 9:00 AM: **Sunday School & Bible Study**

10:30 AM: **Divine Service**

Myra Kaiser is now with the Lord.

Pastor Micah Ernst and his wife, Claudia, lost their home and nearly all their personal possessions this week in a house fire. We are thankful that there were no injuries. Pastor Ernst has served in the ELS for over 35 years, currently serving Peace Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. An account has been established to assist the Ernst's recover from the fire. If you would like to help, please talk to Pastor.

Wednesday Lenten Service Dates/Themes

3/5 Ash Wednesday- Psalm 51:1-2

3/12 Revealing Our Sinful Nature - Psalm 51:5

3/19 Recognizing Against Whom We Sin - Psalm 51:3-4

3/26 Remembering God's Perfect Demands - Psalm 51:6

4/2 Removing Our Guilt - Psalm 51:8-9

4/9 Relying on God's Grace - Psalm 51:7