

February 23, 2025

7th Sunday after Epiphany / Lect. 7 C

Noisy Offering Sunday



Ringling of Bell

PRELUDE *More Love, More Power*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our creator, our protector,
our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN *Bring Forth the Kingdom* HS No.821
Sing all verses & refrains together

1 You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for
the Kingdom of God! Share the flavor of life, O
people; life in the Kingdom of God!

REFRAIN

**Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

2 You are a light on the hill, O people: light for
the City of God! Shine so holy and bright, O
people: shine for the Kingdom of God!

REFRAIN

3 You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring
forth the Kingdom of God! Seeds of mercy and
seeds of justice, grow in the Kingdom of God!

REFRAIN

4 We are a blest and a pilgrim people: bound for
the Kingdom of God! Love our journey and love
our homeland: love is the Kingdom of God!

REFRAIN

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your
peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love,

**C: 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.**

Please be seated for the readings

1ST READING: GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

Joseph forgives his brothers

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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 We read responsively

Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

**Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

**The LORD will make your vindication as clear
as the light and the justice of your case like
the noonday sun.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be
provoked; it leads only to evil.**

For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

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

But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

**But the deliverance of the righteous comes
from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold
in time of trouble.**

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.

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

The mystery of the resurrection of the body

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, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one 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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 6:27-38

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Love your enemies

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat 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 asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back 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 expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, 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 himself 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."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S WORD

MESSAGE *Pr. D.J. Chatelaine*

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1062

Build a Longer Table

1 **Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.**

2 **Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied, Christ will
breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.**

3 **Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.
Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome
here.**

4 **When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.**

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.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY—OFFERING—'NOISY' OFFERING

◆ OFFERING PRAYER

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

C: 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 *Spoken*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* No. 612

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope
beyond our sorrow.**

1 **You who know our fears and sadness, grace us
with your peace and gladness; Spirit of all
comfort, fill our hearts.** *Refrain*

2 **In the pain and joy beholding how your grace
is still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of
love.** *Refrain*

3 **Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry
sister, ev'ry brother; Spirit of all kindness, be our
guide.** *Refrain*

4 **You who know each thought and feeling, teach
us all your way of healing; Spirit of compassion
fill each heart.** *Refrain*

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

**C: 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.**

BENEDICTION

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

◆ HYMN No. 208

Praise to You O God of Mercy

1 **Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to
you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly:
thanks be to you forever!**

2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever! Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

Bridge Strong is your faithfulness,
strong is your love, rememb'ring
your covenant of life with us.

3 Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever! Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever! Thanks be to you forever!

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord*

PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—Pastor D.J. Chatelaine
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Harris Haugen
KEYBOARD/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst
ACOLYTE—Quinnly Hanson
COMMUNION SET-UP—Heidi Haugen
GREETERS—Harris Haugen
COMMUNION SERVERS—Harris Haugen, Erica Aronson
+ 1
COFFEE SERVER—Carmen Nesseth
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth, Steve Johnson,
Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Jennifer Lurfald, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt,
Jim Fountaine, Dick Overby, Dax Eggert, Hannah
Michelsen, Larry Walker.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OL/SKU #00115 *Healer of Our Every Ill* ELW 612
OL/SKU #01117 *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* ELW 208

CALENDAR

Su 2-23	9 AM WORSHIP - 7th Sun aftr Epiph Noisy Offering Sunday 10 AM Sun. School 10 AM Coffee
Mo 2-24	5 PM Pre-Event Meal at FIRST Tickets \$10 benefiting Organ Repair <i>Copper Street Brass Concert, 7 PM @</i> KWHAS AUDITORIUM
Tu 2-25	7 PM KAIC
We 2-26	5:30 – 7 Confirmation
Thu 2-27	1 PM LOVE DAY 7 PM AA
Su 3-2	9 AM WORSHIP – TRANSFIGURATION 10 AM Sun. School 10 AM Coffee

MEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN

You are invited to join our Men's Ministry group. This group can center around a Bible study, service work, social gatherings, etc. To express your interest in joining this group, please fill out the form linked here:

<https://forms.gle/VuSULfaGKkraX4tX6>

THRIVENT MEMBERS: If you have a \$250 Action Team Grant available, please contact Bryana Lothert to discuss how this money could be used to support children and youth ministry here at First Lutheran.

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