



Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 22 & 23, 2025

Introduction to the day

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Song #661 I Love to Tell the Story – Saturday
#798 Will You Come and Follow Me - Sunday

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.

Prayer of the Day

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

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

R 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. R**

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 on- | ly to evil. R**

9 For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess 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 pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance 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. **R**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #720 *We Are Called*

Presentation of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, Donna and Brandalyn, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

Sponsor:

I present name, who *desire* to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,

and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Presiding minister addresses all.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 into hell;
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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Affirmation of Baptism

Donna and Brandalyn, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Prayed over each person being welcomed

Stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice as we welcome these sisters in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

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 (*other ministries may be named*). 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,

may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION HYMN (ELW 471)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of

your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Song #824 *This Is My Father's World*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

+++++

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Anne Balko, Gary Boldt, Cindy Little, Arlene Posont, Nick Brock, Tara Henry, Larry, Helen Mattson, Paul Goodburn, Al Young, Jean Mattson, Families of Marilyn Cook, Gloria Johns, and Carolyn Kolbus.

Nursing Home: Norma Secreast

Assisted Living: Pepper Van Landschoot (Jacobetti), and Pauline Elavsky

In Service: Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, Mikala Robinson, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

PRESIDING MINISTER: Vicar Elaine Robbins

ASSISTING MINISTER: George – Saturday

Joanie H. - Sunday

USHERS: Volunteer – Saturday

Volunteers - Sunday

ALTAR GUILD: Joanie Hinsa

MUSICIAN: Ellie Russey

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Joanie Hinsa

EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, March 1st – Saturday Worship Service 3:30pm – In person

Sunday, March 2nd - Sunday Worship Service 10:30am-In person & Facebook

.....



GIVE USING VANCO ONLINE OR IN THE APP

You can now use Vanco to give online or using the mobile app. Make a one-time gift, or set up a recurring offering.



There will be a MediLodge service on Sunday, February 23rd at 2:00pm. All are welcome.

The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00am.

“Ashes to Go” – will be offered in downtown Munising on Ash Wednesday, March 5th beginning at 12:00pm.

Support our Youth Fund by dropping off returnable cans and bottles to the church. Thank you.

VOUNTEERS NEEDED – Eden is looking for two volunteers who would like to join the offering counters team. This involves one Sunday a month following the worship service. Please contact Joanie Hinsa or the office.

CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor.

Office: eden@jamadots.com

Pastor: pastorofeden@gmail.com

Please be sure to update your email contacts to use these email addresses. Former addresses will no longer be used, and you should get an email response through your email provider stating that the message cannot be sent.

In addition, if you have changed any of your contact information (address, phone, email), please complete the directory update form in narthex or contact the church office to update your information.

For Pastoral Care needs, please contact Vicar Elaine Robbins
906-450-3344, or pastorofeden@gmail.com