SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 23, 2025
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



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Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305 eweber10@aol.com

> Sunday 9:00 A.M. Worship Service

> > 10:30 A.M.

Adult Bible Class/ Sunday School

Holy Communion: Every Sunday

www.facebook.com/lutheranmercedes/

Website: Misionemanuel.com

Office Hrs., M-F 8 am to 12 pm CCLI # 2585510



#### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

## **WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10;1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you... this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17–34.

A Prayer Upon Entering Church - Lord God, my Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, I pray Your protection and guidance. Be a ready source of strength so that the world around me will not deceive me and lead me from Your guidance and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER - Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

#### **DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE**

**PAGE 184** 

**PRELUDE** 

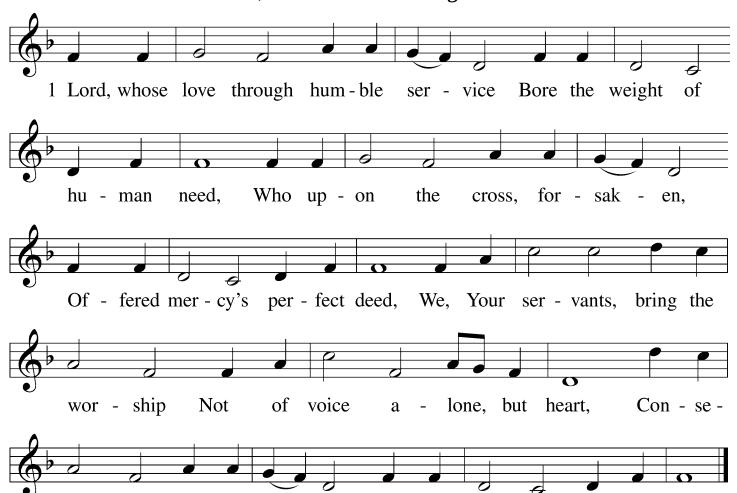
Your Word, O Lord

**WELCOME** 

crat - ing

to

**OPENING HYMN** Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service LSB 848



Your pur - pose

(Continue on next page) <sup>3</sup>

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#### Please stand

#### **INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto 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 Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**INTROIT** Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b

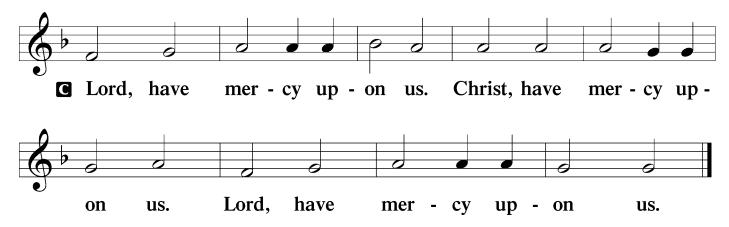
- P Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
- C Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
- P For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
- C Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
- P Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- C Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.

P Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,

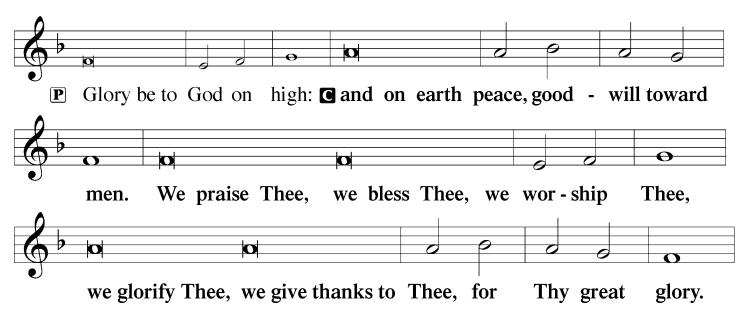
#### **GLORIA PATRI**



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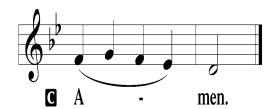




#### **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**



P O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please sit

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Genesis 45:3-15

(Joseph explains to his brothers that God is really in control of all things, including their selling him into slavery.)

3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor

harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout 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 to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. 11 There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." '
- 12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. 13 So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."
- 14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.
- 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.
- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM** *Psalm 103:1–13; antiphon: v. 8*

- P The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
- C Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- P Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:
- C Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases,
- P Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
- C Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- P The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are

oppressed.

C He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

P The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

- mercy.

  He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.
- P He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.
- C For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
- P As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- C As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him.
- P The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

## **EPISTLE** 1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

("What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.")

21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 30 And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? 31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 34 Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what

body do they come?" 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds.

40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

### C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

#### **ALLELUIA**



#### **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 6:27-38

(Jesus preaches about loving our enemies, beggars we meet, and others.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

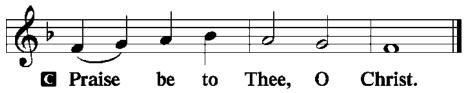


27 "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

32 "But if you love those who love you, what credit 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 credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



#### **NICENE CREED**

All: 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 sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will 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 in 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.

Please sit

To our humblest charity

In Your own mysterious sentence,



(Continue on next page) 13

"You have done it all to Me." Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue, Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us 4 With Your lifeblood as the price, Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice. Give us faith to trust You boldly. Hope, to stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **SERMON** Loving all as Sons and Daughters of the Merciful Most High

Luke 6:35-36

#### Choir..... .....Brother James Air **OFFERING** Please stand **OFFERTORY** LSB 789 Praise and Thanksgiving 1 Praise and thanks - giv ing, Fa - ther, we all things of fer For bor We bring to serve You 2 Bless, Lord, the That with our la ing Food for Your chil - dren, 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid By Your wise liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the may be fed. Sow-ing or till - ing, We would work neigh - bor We guid - ing Teach us share One with an - oth - er, So that, re chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blos - som wood. and You, Har - vest-ing, mill - ing For dai lv bread.

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## **SHARING OF THE PEACE** "Peace be with you" [American Sign Language]

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for ourselves, our friends and family, the nations of the world, and our enemies.

For the church, people gathered around Word and Sacrament, those

who serve professionally that they reflect the Gospel they proclaim, and those who serve their family and friends quietly, that God remind them that they are indeed His children, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For the nations of this world and their leaders, that God use them for the good of all and that they serve both the influencers and those who have been forgotten by society, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For artists and craftspeople, musicians and actors, that they use their gifts to the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For troops deployed and police at home, for first responders and health professionals and volunteers that their efforts bring about healing and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

P For those near and dear to us, [including . . .], that God give them health and healing, recovery and remission, solace and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

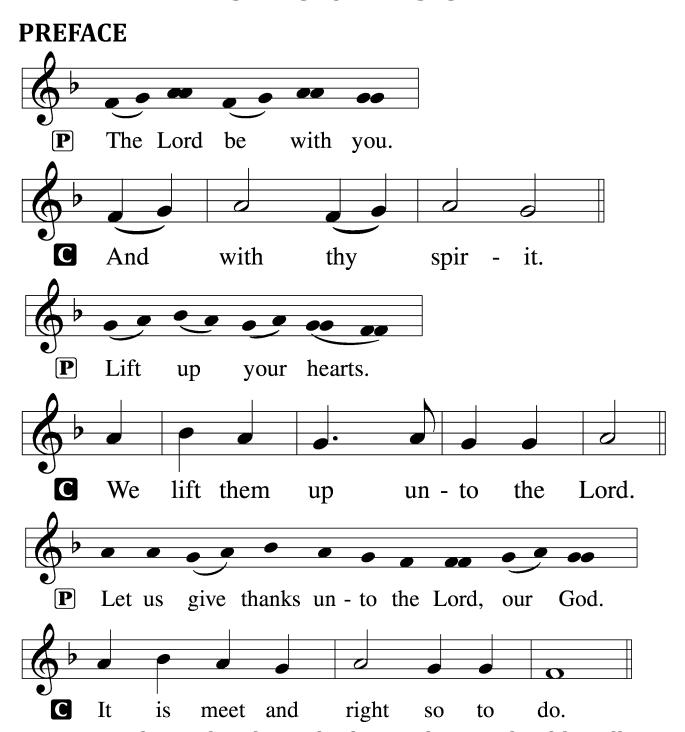
P For ourselves and our congregation, that God refresh and renew our resolve to spread the Gospel, love the people around us, and serve Him with all the resources He provides, let us pray to the Lord.

## C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, gracious Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, grace, and compassion, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

#### C Amen.

#### + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +



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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us, revealing Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### **SANCTUS**



**□** Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

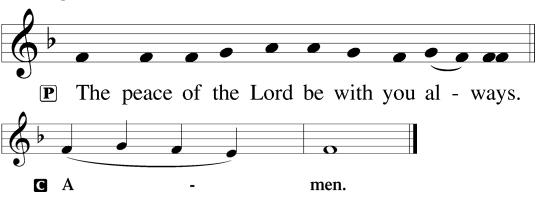
C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



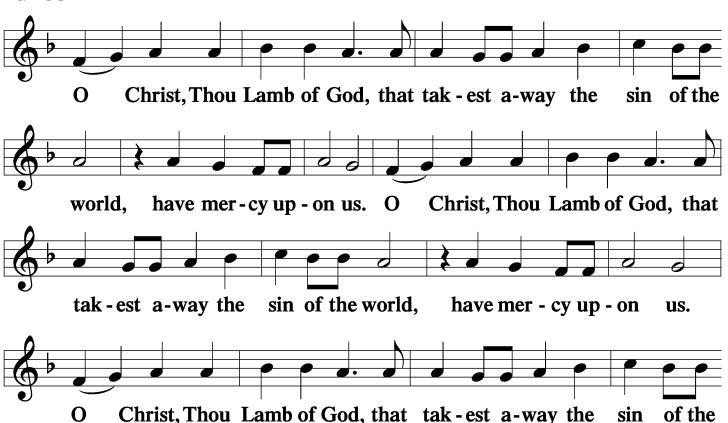
#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks. He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He 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 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."





#### **AGNUS DEI**



sin



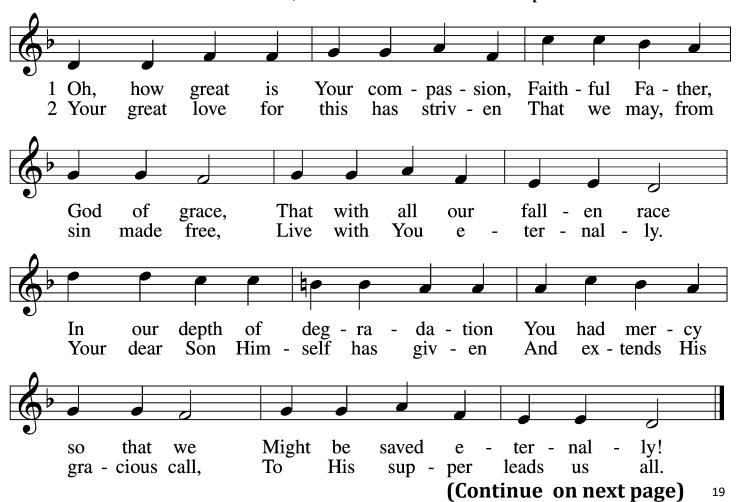
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#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.



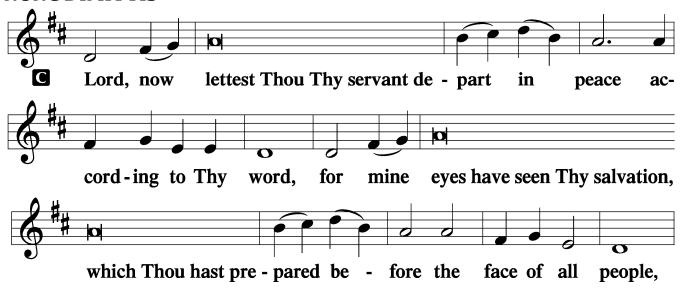


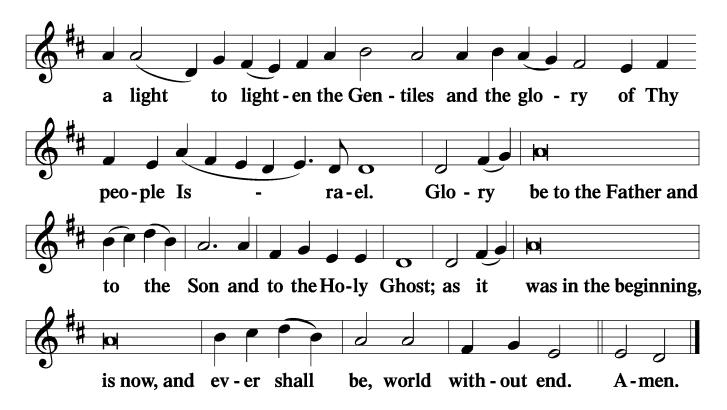
- 3 Firmly to our soul's salvation Witnesses Your Spirit, Lord, In Your Sacraments and Word. There He sends true consolation, Giving us the gift of faith That we fear not hell nor death.
- Lord, Your mercy will not leave me;
  Ever will Your truth abide.
  Then in You I will confide.
  Since Your Word cannot deceive me,
  My salvation is to me
  Safe and sure eternally.
- I will praise Your great compassion, Faithful Father, God of grace, That with all our fallen race In our depth of degradation You had mercy so that we Might be saved eternally.

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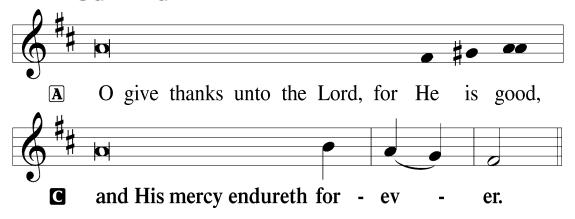
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#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**





#### **THANKSGIVING**



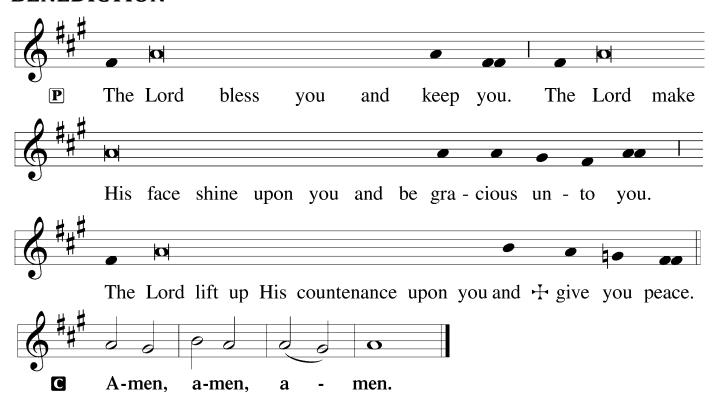
P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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



## **BENEDICAMUS**



## **BENEDICTION**





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#### **DISMISSAL**

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Go in peace as you serve our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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## **POSTLUDE**



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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Portals of Prayer** for <u>January to March 2025</u> are available in the Narthex or office.

Join us for **Sunday School and Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Goetz is leading the class.

## February Activities

Family Confirmation Class on Thursdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Steak Night/Bible Study Tuesday, February 25th, 2025 6:00 p.m.

## March Activities

#### <u>Lent Season</u>

## Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. with Soup Supper @ 5:00 p.m.

## Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 9, 2025 (<u>Spring forward your clocks 1 hour</u> before going to bed, Saturday night.)

Sermon Notes		



Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

As a father pities *his* children, *So* the LORD pities those who fear Him.

Psalm 103:13

## 2/16/2025

Sunday Worship 82

Plate: \$ 604.00

Envelopes: \$ 3,570.00

Envelopes-Other:

On Line

Donation: Baseball Field \$75.00

Memorial:

**Total:** \$4,249.00

Bible Class: **30** \$ 37.00

# THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Psalm 99
Hebrews 3:1-6
Luke 9:28-36

## As the Son of God Is Merciful and Forgives Your Sins, You Also Be Merciful and Forgive

Your inheritance as a child of Adam is sin and death, but in Christ you are made alive through His resurrection from the dead (1 Cor. 15:21–22). As you have died with Him in Holy Baptism, so are you raised with Him to newness of life. Therefore, "do not go on sinning" (1 Cor. 15:34). Instead of serving your desires and harming your neighbors, live as "sons of the Most High," and "be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:35–36). Deal with others as you would have others deal with you (Luke 6:31, 37–38). As Christ loved you when you were at enmity with Him, as He blessed and prayed for those who abused Him, and as He did good to those who hated Him and hurt Him, so also "love your enemies, do good" (Luke 6:27–29, 35). For God sent His Son to bear the cross and suffer death, not to condemn the guilty, but "to preserve life." So does He provide a place for you within His Church, where He is near and deals kindly with "you and your children and your children's children" (Gen. 45:5–10).

	Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule		
	February Sunday Servants:	March Sunday Servants:	
Elder:	Earl Neuhaus	Dan Wehling	
Altar Guild:	S Wehling/R Cisneros/M Perez	R Cisneros/M Perez/C. Zink	
Music:	Doris Pickering/Pam Terral/Bob Kaemmerer		
This Week	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany		
Usher:	Dan Wehling		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Se	ervice 9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible S	Study 10:30 am	
Next Week	The Transfiguration of Our Lord		
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus		
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Se	ervice 9:00 am	
	Sunday School & Adult Bible S	Study 10:30 am	