

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY  
**After Epiphany**



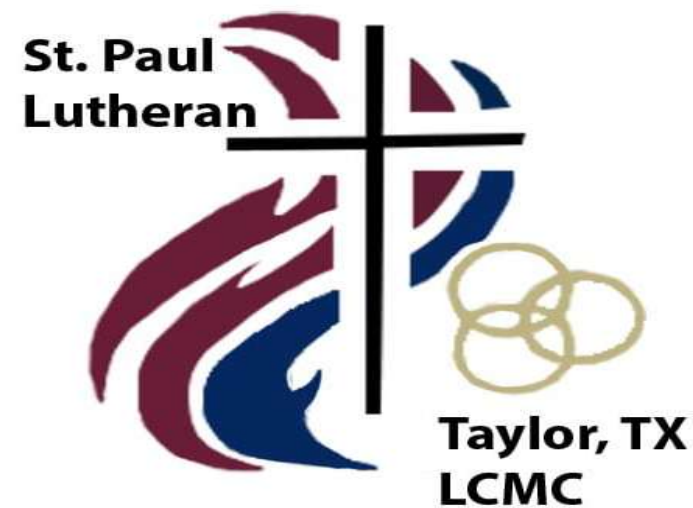
***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

February 23, 2025

**YOU GET  
WHAT YOU  
GIVE**  
**(LUKE 6:36-38)**



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
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**Congregational meeting will be today immediately following church service.**

**In addition to the Annual Report, the congregation will discuss proposed changes to the Congregational Constitution.**

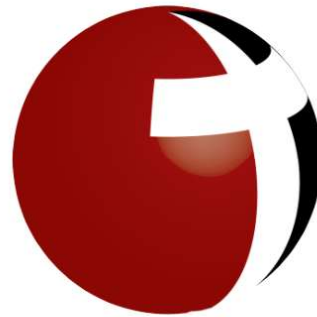
**Copies of the Annual Report and Proposed Constitution changes are available in the Narthex.**



**Your prayers have power!  
Never underestimate the impact  
of talking to God.**

**WELCOME**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US**



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



## **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.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

**Gathering Song**

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

**Hymn # 656**

**<sup>1</sup> Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.**

Hymn # 656

**2 Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our  
aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.**

Hymn # 656

**<sup>3</sup> We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.**

Hymn # 656

**Final From sorrow, toil, and  
pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and  
friendship reign through all  
eternity.**

Hymn # 656

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

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

## **Glory To God**

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*[Refrain]*



*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth, and peace to God's people  
on earth.*

## **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*

*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.*

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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.'"

<sup>15</sup>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)*

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good;  
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the LORD,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**



<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the  
land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no  
more; even if you search out their place,  
they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes  
from you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> 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.*

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

<sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

<sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

<sup>48</sup>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. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>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***

***Alleluia.***

***Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***Alleluia.***

***You have the words of eternal Life.***

***Alleluia, alleluia.***



# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27-38

**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:] <sup>27</sup>"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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.

<sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>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.**



CHILDREN'S  
SERMON

# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

**YOU GET  
WHAT YOU  
GIVE**  
**(LUKE 6:36-38)**



## **Hymn of the Day**

**“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”**

**Hymn # 617**

**<sup>1</sup> We come to you for healing,  
Lord, of  
body, mind, and soul,  
and pray that by your  
Spirit's touch we may again  
be whole.**

Hymn # 617

**2 As once you walked through  
ancient streets and  
reached toward those in pain,  
come, risen Christ, among  
us still with pow'r to heal  
again.**

Hymn # 617

**<sup>3</sup> You touch us through  
physicians' skills, through  
nurses' gifts of care, and  
through the love of faithful  
friends who lift our lives in  
prayer.**

Hymn # 617

**4 When nights are long with  
wakefulness, through  
days when strength runs low,  
grant us your gift of  
patience, Lord, your calming  
peace to know.**

Hymn # 617

**Final We come to you, O loving  
Lord, in  
our distress and pain,  
in trust that through our  
nights and days  
your grace will heal, sustain.**

Hymn # 617

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*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 and we remember our friends and family members before God. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries: for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Wanda in the Home Office, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida. Today we also pray for Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Knippa, Texas. We pray for their discernment in the call process.

Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors,  
healthcare workers and first responders, our  
students, teachers and school administrators. God  
of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. 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.**

**Amen.**

## **Canticle of Thanksgiving**

*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and  
ever.***

***<sup>1</sup> Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose  
name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy  
God!***

*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.***

# **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **SENDING**

## **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**

**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

**Hymn # 815**

**1 I want to walk as a child of  
the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

**God set the stars to give  
light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

[Refrain]

**In him there is no darkness at all.**

**The night and the day are both  
alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city  
of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

**2 I want to see the brightness of  
God.  
I want to look at Jesus.**

Hymn # 815



**Clear sun of righteousness,  
shine on my path, and show  
me the way to the Father.**

**[Refrain]**

**Hymn # 815**

[Refrain]

**In him there is no darkness at all.**

**The night and the day are both  
alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city  
of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

**Final I'm looking for the coming of  
Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

**When we have run with  
patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of  
Jesus.  
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 815

[Refrain]

**In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both  
alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city  
of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn # 815

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

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