



“But I say to you that listen,

Love
your enemies,

do good

to those who hate you,

bless

those who curse you,

pray

for those who abuse you.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

February 23rd, 2025

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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany: February 23rd, 2025

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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.

*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.**

GATHERING HYMN Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us ELW 707

APOSTOLIC GREETING

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ***C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: 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.

*C: Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading.....Genesis 45:3-11,15

L: A reading from Genesis the 45th chapter.....(Lector: Sierra Pressley)

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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

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.**

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 only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess 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 possess the land;
they will delight in abundance 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.

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

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians the 15th chapter.....(Sierra Pressley)

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.

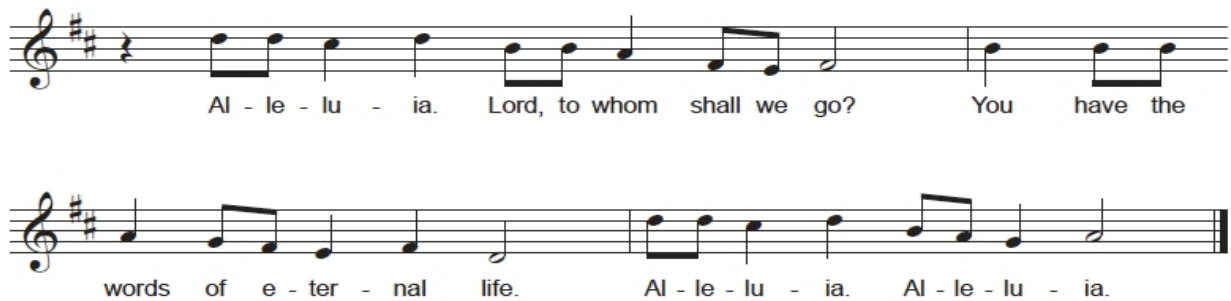
⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there 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.

L: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



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

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Holy Gospel.....Luke 6:27-38

[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.”

*P: The Gospel of our Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Sermon

The Sermon.....Pastor Sue Lynn White

***Hymn of the Day** **Build a Longer Table** **Insert**

***APOSTLES' CREED**.....(**Assistant Minister: Sierra Pressley**)

***A:** Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***C:** 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

***A:** 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,

***C: 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,

God of grace,

***C: 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,

***C: 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 Marlene Shue, John Trexler, Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Kathy Brown, Lynn DeBerry, Nancy Monroe, Marcia Ritchie, Thelma Barger, Lucy Shue, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler and those we hold in our hearts and lift before you now. God of grace,

***C: 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. God of grace,

***C: 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,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

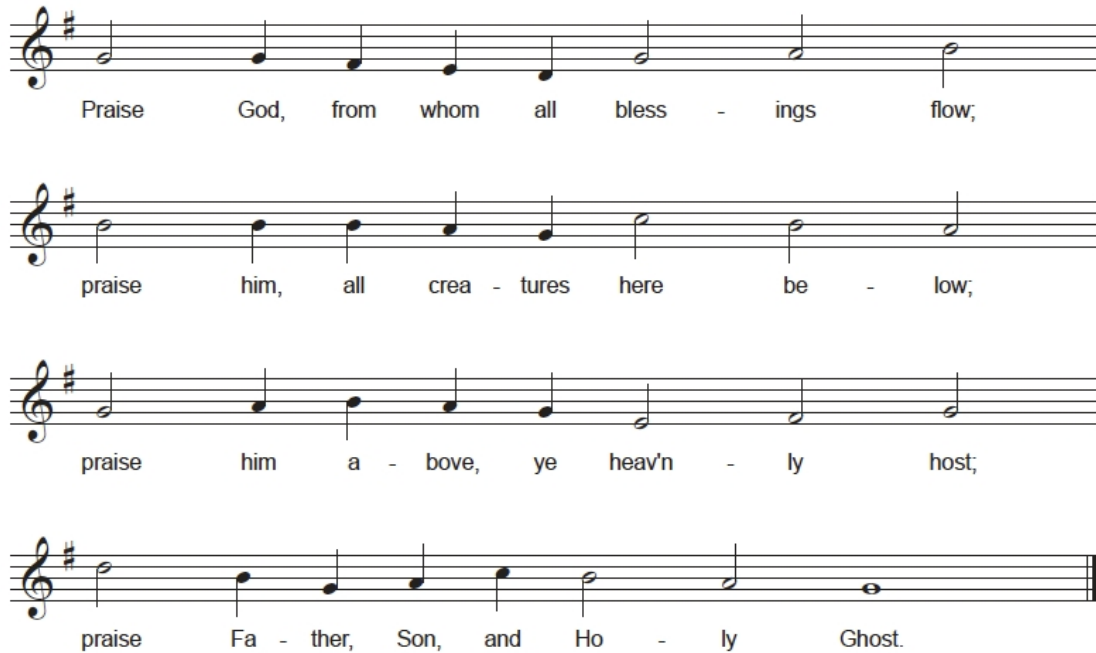
***C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING

Anthem

Offering Hymn...“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”ELW 884



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;

praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

*A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

***C: Amen.**

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE

*P: The Lord be with you

***C: And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.

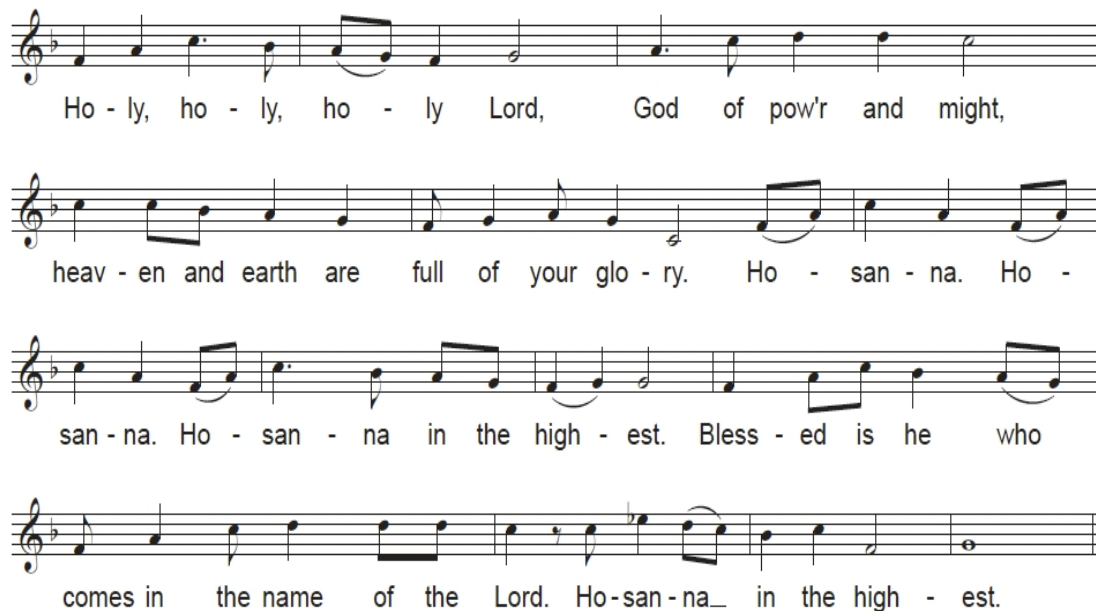
***C: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

***C: Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na_ in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

***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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

***C: Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

*C: Amen.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

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

*C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling. ELW 608

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

*P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

**Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity Postlude*