

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 24, 2019

Service of the Word

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.

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February 24, 2019
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Marilyn Tackaberry, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

ELW 588

GREETING

KYRIE

ELW p. 213

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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.

³Joseph 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.

⁴Then 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. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For 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. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So 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. ⁹Hurry 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. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹I 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.'” ¹⁵And 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

¹Do 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.**

³Put 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.**

⁵Commit 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.**

⁷Be 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.**

⁹For 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.**

¹¹But 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.**

⁴⁰You, 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.

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And 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. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As 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. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What 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

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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 to 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, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do 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. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If 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. ³⁵But 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. ³⁶Be 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; ³⁸give, 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 *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

ELW 716

CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United as one body in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for the church. Fill us with a spirit of generosity and care. Lead us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Show us new ways to be helpful to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Grant seasonable weather for the planting and harvesting of crops. Protect farms, orchards, and gardens from damage. Bless those who till fields, those who care for livestock, and all who provide food. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. For all researchers and leaders who work to resolve complex issues; for all who teach peace and reconciliation to communities in conflict; for those affected by earthquake, drought, or storms, and all who come to their aid. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation. Guide those who hold public office to use their authority and power for the good of all people. Help us all to care for our neighbors, and lead us to live together in unity and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For those who lack adequate food, water, shelter, or access to medical care; for those unable to find gainful employment. Heal the sick, and comfort

the grieving, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for this assembly. Inspire us to be good stewards of the resources you have entrusted to us. Teach us to give freely of ourselves and to offer our lives in service. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. Even in the midst of death, give us faith to trust your promise of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and fill us with the radiance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

OFFERING

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

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THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

ELW 836

DISMISSAL

SERVING TODAY: Greeter: Lou Wegmeyer; Ushers: Jerry Hall, Derek Maier; Scripture Reader: Shannon Furtah; Projectionist: Chris Ritter; Acolyte: Olivia Jones

MONEY COUNTERS: Ron and Gale Meiselbaugh

ATTENDANCE: Saturday, 22; Sunday 65

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome those who are visiting with us. Please take time to sign the registration book or the guest register in the lobby and introduce yourself to Pastor Ken. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and our congregation warm and receptive. We are glad that you are here.

DVD copies of the 9:30 a.m. worship service can be produced for those who are shut-in or others who would like a copy. Let us know in advance if there is a service that you would like recorded.

On Wednesday, February 27, at 6:30 pm Monnencia Riley from Thrivent, will be leading a Parents, Teens and Money Matters workshop. This workshop is a great opportunity for youth and their parents to learn about financial stewardship. The workshop is open to youth in sixth through twelfth grades (required for St. Peter's Confirmation students). Youth are asked to attend with at least one parent.

Pastors Ken and Joyce will be teaching First Communion class on Saturday, March 16 from 10 am -2 pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, March 17. Children in 2nd grade and older are invited to receive their First Communion. If you would like your son or daughter to participate, please let Pastor Ken or Pastor Joyce know.

St. Peter's is hosting a Scrapbook Crop on March 2 to benefit Youth and Family Ministries. The cost to rent a table is \$35 if you register before February 1, and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you would like to rent a table, contact Pastor Joyce. See the flier in the lobby for details.

Thank you to all the volunteers who stayed after worship to help tie the fleece blankets! All of our awesome volunteers were able to make 18 blankets! The blankets will be blessed on Sunday during the service.

Following worship on March 10, we will be having a congregation wide (people of all ages) talent/ variety show! Bring your jokes, songs, dances, tricks, and anything else that you would like to share! Anyone is welcome to sign up! It will be an afternoon of exploring the stewardship of gifts that God has given us!

You are invited to join Pastor Ken for a study of A Clearing Season: Reflections for Lent. This book shows us how to clear space in our lives for God, identify obstacles that keep us from God, and choose a Lenten practice to help us remove those obstructions. This six-week study begins on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:00 am. Cost of the book is \$11. There is a signup sheet outside of Pastor Ken's office if you are interested. There is a separate signup sheet for anyone who would like to read the book but cannot attend the Wednesday morning study.

Pastor Elizabeth Friedman from University of Michigan Campus Ministry will be here to preach on the weekend of March 2 & 3 and will talk about their programs for college students.

Tickets for the baseball game at Jimmy John's Field will go on sale March 2 and will be sold until April 28. Tickets are \$35 each for people ages 4 and up. Included in your ticket price is \$10 coming back to St. Peter Youth Group, a buffet of hot dogs, BBQ pulled pork, grilled chicken breasts, potato chips, fruit salad, pasta salad and cookies, unlimited soda, lemonade, ice tea and water, two drink tickets per adult for beer or wine, a group photo on the field, autographs from the players, "Chalk talk" with a team coach or player, a greeting on Scoreboard, a meet & greet with the mascots, kids run the bases after the game, an opportunity to participate in holding a 30' x 60' American flag on the field during the National Anthem, an opportunity to throw an Honorary 1st Pitch, and free parking. We will be seated close to the kids' zone and whiffle ball field. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Joyce.

IN NEED OF PRAYER Dennis Rocker, Mary Forsy, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Louis Eisen, Loretta Lukasak, Elizabeth MacDonald, Sharon Ann Wheeler, Adeline Harsch, Pat Greenwood, Patricia Jones, Marc Dease, Stacey Yax, Ruth Morris, Bernie Nummer, Carole Stiefvater, Ed Myers, Jeremy Bryan, James Mitchell, Marlene Hand, Kenneth Eisen, Connie Felstow, Linda Leist, George Eisen, Todd Schwehofer, Alan Freed. (Please call or email the office at stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net to update information.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm | Choir 7 pm | Pastors' day off | Scrapbook Crop 9 am – 9 pm Worship, Communion 5 pm | Sunday School, Worship, Communion 9:30 am Youth Choir 10:30 |