

February 23, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



Presider: The Reverend Paul A. Miller

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Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that is took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!

PRELUDE: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

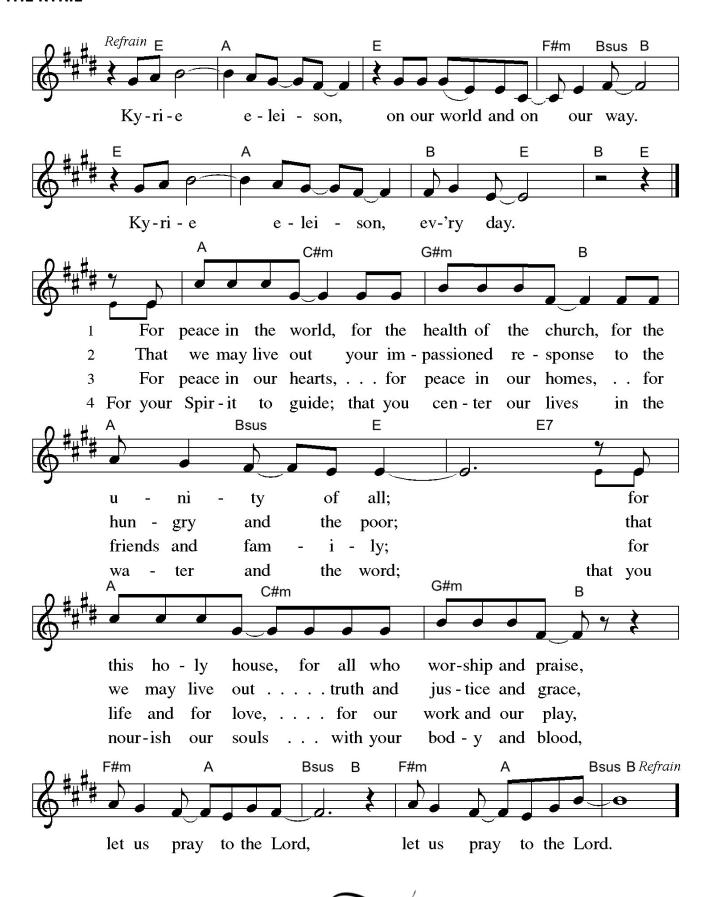


GREETING

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you.

THE KYRIE



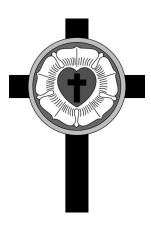
THE GLORIA





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.



FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: 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.
- 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

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.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38 People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Build a Longer Table

David Bjorlin

Noêl Nouvelet (French Carol)



CONFESSION OF FAITH - 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Hear our prayer.

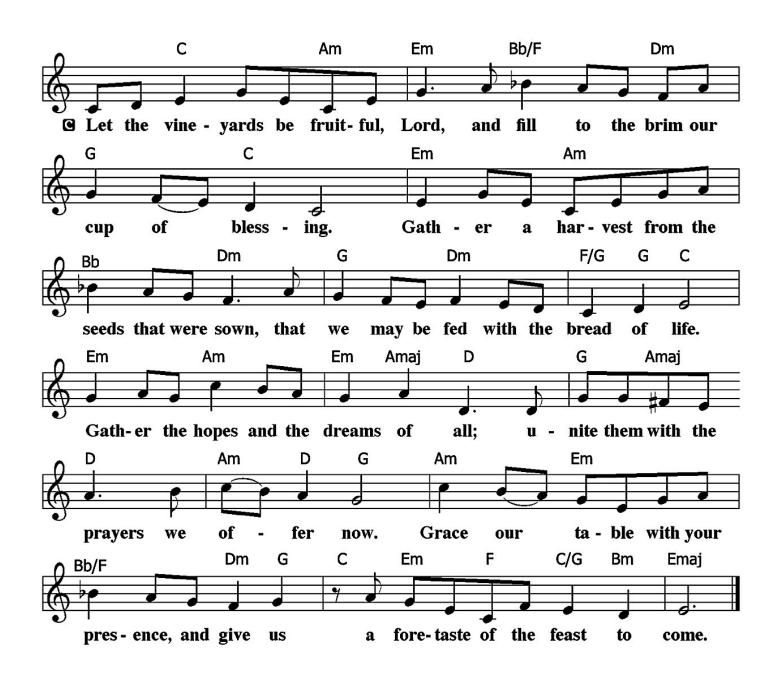
SHARING OF THE PEACE:

SPECIAL MUSIC: Choir: Give and It Shall Be Given Unto You

OFFERING

Please mail your offering to: Church of the Savior 643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the QR code on right for your offertory giving.





ALL: 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. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

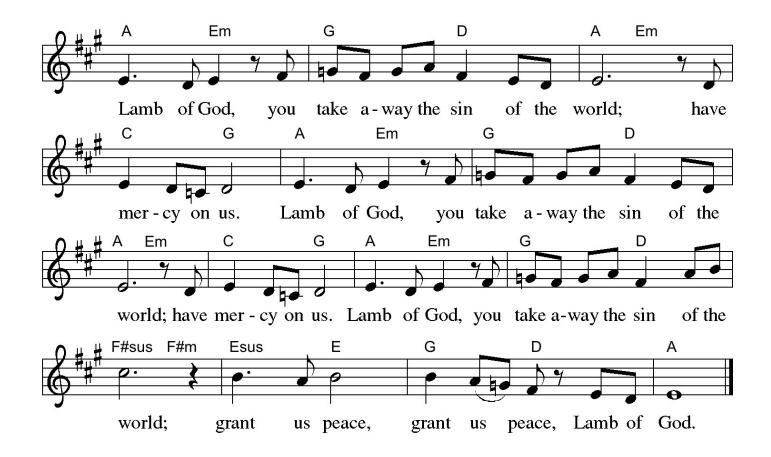
....proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer

People: Amen

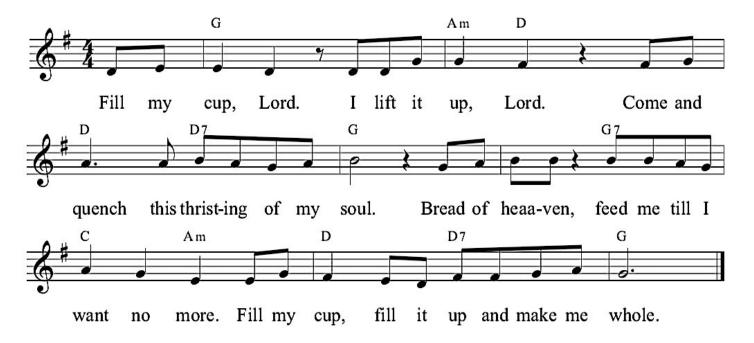
THE LORD'S PRAYER



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

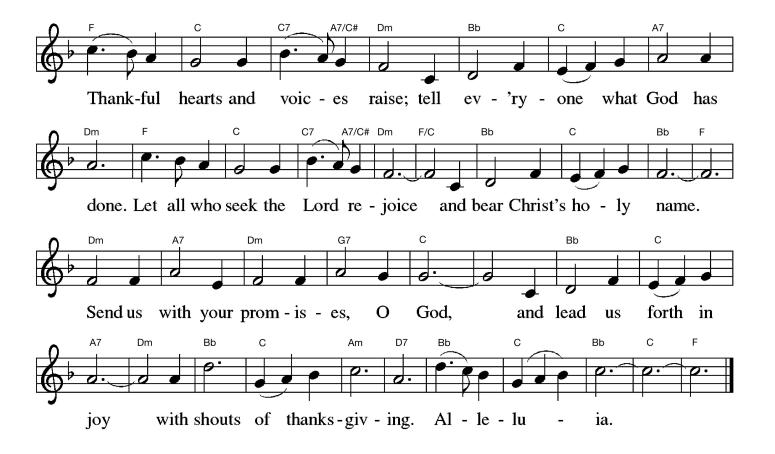


COMMUNION HYMN: Fill My Cup, Lord



COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace! **Amen.**



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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, Amen.

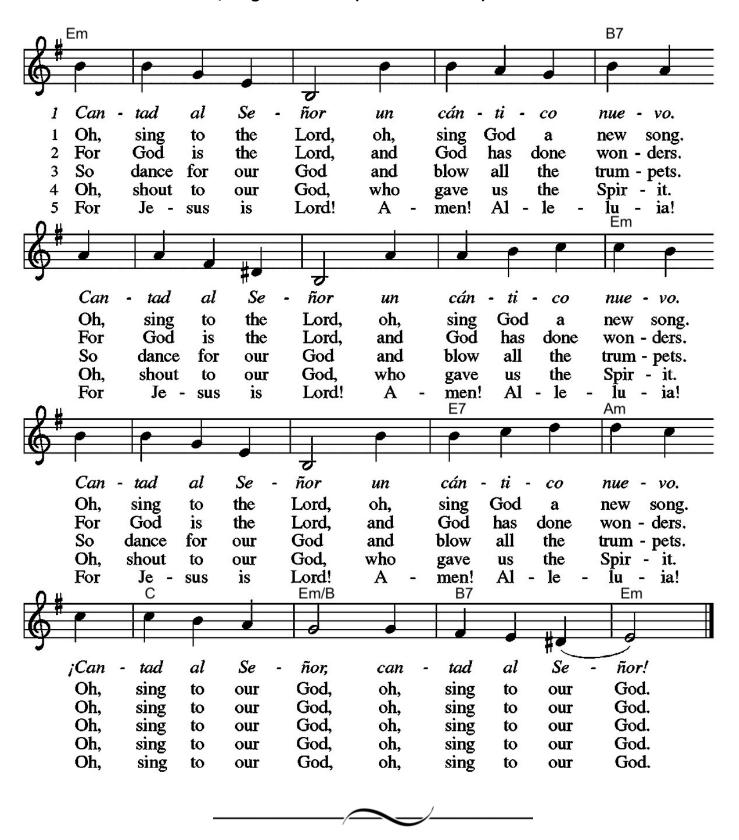
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God \oplus bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**



RECESSIONAL HYMN: Oh, Sing to the Lord (Cantad al Señor)



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope...

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY

DATE	LECTOR	WORSHIP ASST.	USHER
Feb 23	Ed Moderacki	Maggie Harrer	Antoinette Walder
Mar 2	Dave Johnsrud	Laurie Feingold	Ed Moderacki
Mar 5 Ash Wed	12pm Wendy McFarland 7pm Vicki Coyle		
Mar 9	Maggie Harrer	Vicki Coyle	Rick Henly

FLOWERS

Feb 23 For: Blessings on the Duffy Family

From: Marge Duffy

Mar 2 For: John & Jonathan Roessler's Birthdays

From: The Roessler Family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 1	Men's Breakfast
Mar 2	Sunday School & Coffee Hour
Mar 3-7	ELCA Lutheran School Week & Scholastic Book Fair
Mar 4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: 6pm
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday: 12pm & 7pm Imposition of Ashes
	Westwood (1:30pm)
Mar 9	Lutheran School Week Worship Service
Mar 11	PS Open House: 4pm-6pm
Mar 12	Lenten Service: 7pm
Mar 16	Sunday School
	Congregational Meeting
Mar 18	Council Meeting: 7:30pm

MAILING LIST

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