

# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

*848 LORD, WHOSE LOVE THROUGH HUMBLE  
SERVICE*

1 Lord, whose love through humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Ev'ry gift that You impart.

2 Still Your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,

Use the love Your Spirit kindles  
Still to save and make us whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till Your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness,  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving,  
Your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to Your service,  
Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom  
May Your mercy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt.

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***(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)***

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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,

**C** 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**

## *SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** **Amen.**

### *OLD TESTAMENT READING*

Genesis 45:3–15

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 45.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And 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 tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the

eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

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

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

**A** The Epistle is from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 15.

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his

enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, 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>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory



of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

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

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Stand)*

*ALLELUIA*

LSB 190

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*HOLY GOSPEL*

Luke 6:27–38

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>27</sup>Jesus said: “But I say to you who hear, 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>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. <sup>31</sup>And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. Good

measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### *APOSTLES' CREED*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## *SERMON*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** **Amen.**

*Weekly Bible Verse from last week* Exodus 3:15

<sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has

sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

*Weekly Bible Verse for this week* Mark 1:14–15

<sup>14</sup>Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

*Weekly Catechism: THE SECOND PETITION*

Thy kingdom come.

*What does this mean?*

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

*How does God’s kingdom come?*

God’s kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

## OFFERTORY

LSB 192

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, Your servant Joseph endured hardship and struggle, yet he believed it would come to good. Give us such tested faith, and bring all things to completion according to Your purposes in Christ, the new Adam, who has brought hope to the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Preserve and unite Your Church, O Lord. Bring an end to her earthly divisions, which grieve You. Give her the true unity of doctrine and faith in Your Word. Bless and sustain our leaders in our Synod, district, circuit and this congregation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Almighty God, Your Son, our Lord, commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute us. We implore You, by Your gracious visitation, lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, be of one accord, and share one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Merciful God, give us guidance amid the changes and chances of this mortal life. Deliver us from the pangs of doubt and the paralysis of fear. Let us know our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the power of His

resurrection with joy, that we may not surrender to anxiety or despair. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Righteous Lord, uphold civil authority and those responsible for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them steadfastly to pursue the cause of justice and protect life from beginning to natural end. Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us here or abroad. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** We give thanks for the gift of this blessed Sacrament, O Lord. Give us a right heart as we



prepare to eat and drink Christ's true body and blood, that by it we would be equipped to love You above all and our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners with no good in us. Our hearts and our flesh and blood are so corrupted by sin that we are never without sinful desires in this life. Therefore, we implore You, forgive us our sins. Let Your Holy Spirit so cleanse our hearts that we would love Your Word, abide by it and, by Your grace, be saved forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** It is truly meet, 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS*

LSB 195

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that  
cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

*LORD'S PRAYER*

LSB 196

**P** 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.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and  
the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

LSB 197

**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.”

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.”

*PAX DOMINI*

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*AGNUS DEI*

LSB 198

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

*814 O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL*

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.
  
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!
  
- 3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
And makes thee young again.

- 4 He crowns thy life with love  
When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell  
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- 5 He fills the poor with good;  
He gives the suff'ers rest.  
The Lord hath judgments for the proud  
And justice for th'oppressed.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

## *790 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of  
creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and  
salvation!

Let all who hear

Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is  
wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen  
All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously,  
made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling,  
has stayed you.  
What need or grief  
Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and  
defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend  
you.

Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.

- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore  
Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises  
before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

*NUNC DIMITTIS*

LSB 199

**© Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in  
peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which  
Thou hast prepared before the face of all  
people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of  
Thy people Israel.**



**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION*

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

*660 STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS*

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,  
Ye soldiers of the cross.  
Lift high His royal banner;  
It must not suffer loss.  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry  
His army He shall lead

Till ev'ry foe is vanquished,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.

2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
The trumpet call obey;  
Stand forth in mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day.  
Let all His faithful serve Him  
Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger  
And strength to strength oppose.

3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
Stand in His strength alone.  
The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own.  
Put on the Gospel armor;  
Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus;  
The strife will not be long;  
This day the din of battle,  
The next the victor's song.  
The soldiers, overcoming,  
Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory  
Shall reign eternally.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818–88, alt.

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