**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**February 23, 2025, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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.

**GATHERING HYMN All Creatures Worship God Most High ELW 835**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.**

**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 MUSIC Have No Fear, Little Flock (v.1) ELW 764**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 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**

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, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 33**

**GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

[Jesus said:] 27 “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; 28 bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat 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 asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back 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 expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 Instead, 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 himself 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Build a Longer Table ACS 1062**

**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 power of 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**

…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.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in February*** *(collected in a special*

*envelope) will be the* ***Orenda Center. (More information can be found on the last page of this bulletin)***

**OFFERING SONG**  **I Come with Joy ELW 482**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Holy, Holy, Holy ACS pg. 36**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

O God most mighty,

O God most merciful,

O God our rock and our salvation,

hear us as we praise,

call us to your table,

grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,

you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren,

you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved,

you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,

and the psalmists cried out for healing,

and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among the poor,

he lived under oppression,

he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine:

warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,

O God our strength and our song,

you show us a vision of a tree of life

with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,

the life of the Father to the Son,

the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,

life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God

☩ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, February 23 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Seventh Sunday after Epiphany * Luke 6:27-38; Love your enemies |
| Tuesday, February 25 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, February 26 | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship  Confirmation Class |
| Sunday, March 2 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School   * Transfiguration of Our Lord * Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]; Jesus is transfigured on the mountain |

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| February 23 | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Andrea Hovick | Bob & Laurel Peterson | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis | February:  Dave & Shelly Schneider  Bruce & Nancy Tibbett |
| March 2 | Matt & Margo Berrier | Jon Hill | John Wagner  Sarah Kopitzke | Pam Mundt | Margo Berrier | March:  Chris Tipping  Julie Will  Andrea Hovick |
| March 9 | Richard & Sarah Kopitzke | Kris Tarter | Matt & Margo Berrier | Dan Mundt | Bob Peterson |
| March 16 | Dan & Pam Mundt | Laurel Peterson | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Nancy Leonard | Rob Mader |

Names on the prayer list will now default to 6 weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list longer, please let Pastor Katie know.

**There will be fellowship time after worship one Sunday a month. Please sign up on the table in the narthex.**

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SOS had 100 clients in the month of January 2025. The need is expected to grow in the next few months. Local churches have been asked to donate specific foods to help meet this need. Good Shepherd has been asked to provide noodle mix and rice mix.  Your continued generosity greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the Good Shepherd members for their support.

**Urgently need: rice mix and noodle mix.**

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

The Reconciling in Christ team will be hosting a 6-week book study on *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* to discuss how the Bible has been used as a tool to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community. The book study will begin after worship on Sunday, March 9th. Books will be available for pickup from church.

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| **Notification from Outreach Ministry**  The February Pass Around offering will go to the Orenda Center. PDC faces an unsustainable budget shortfall of $600,000 due to state and federal funding reductions. These cuts have put programs and services at risk and jeopardize their ability to provide safety and stability to many individuals in our community. |

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| **“Good Shepherd Directory Update”**  Watch for upcoming dates to share your photos and personal information for the revised Good  Shepherd Directory. The team comprised of Jon Hill, Margo Berrier, Pam Mundt, and Jane  Wagner are seeking input whether you prefer an online or printed directory or both. They  would also like to know what members’ details to include such as phone numbers and  addresses, email, etc… Please provide feedback to our team as they begin their work. |

**Bible Study is returning for Lent!**

We’ll follow a series on Exodus beginning Wednesday, March 12 at noon. All are welcome to join!

Session 1: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Session 2: Exodus 2:11-25

Session 3: Exodus 3 & 4

Session 4: Exodus 14

Session 5: Exodus 16:2-30

Session 6: Exodus 17:1-7

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| A cartoon of a person holding a bowl of water  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | Need your help!  We are looking for monthly cleaning crews!  Duties only twice a year.  Let’s keep our church nice and shine!  Please contact the office 715-387-2731 or  gslcwi.office@gmail.com. |

