



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as
ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GREETING

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

GLORIA

Fast and lively

Org. *f*
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

5
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord — God, hea - ven - ly King, al -

9
- migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

13 *mp*
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

18
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

22
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the

27

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

32 *f*

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

35

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

40

with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

44 *ff* *rit.*

A - - men, a - - men, a - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis.

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. 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.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 37:1-12, 41-42

Sung by the choir. Music by Ann Mounsey (contemporary)

- ¹ Do not fret yourself because of 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 feed on its riches.
- ⁴ Take delight in the Lord, *

- and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- ⁶ He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.
- ⁸ Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁹ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- ¹⁰ For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.
- ¹¹ In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- ¹² But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ⁴¹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- ⁴² The Lord will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,*
because they seek refuge in him.

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from I Corinthians.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 3.

HYMN 584



1 The Son of God, our Christ, the Word, the Way,
 2 In ev - 'ry test, in tri - als man - i - fold,
 3 To - day, as then, Christ sum - mons us to dare
 4 In cit - y street, in town, or on the soil,
 5 Wher - e'er we find our wit - ness should be made,



shared hu - man life and toiled through - out the day;
 these ser - vants wit - nessed, by their faith made bold;
 to fol - low bold - ly and his work to share,
 may each serve Christ in faith - ful dai - ly toil,
 what - e'er our task, be thou, O Christ, our aid,



from com - mon folk he called the twelve to be
 and with the gifts and tal - ents which they brought
 to help and heal the sick, the blind, the lame,
 and in each thought and kind - ly word and deed,
 that we may glad - ly give for thee our best



co - work - ers in his sa - cred min - is - try.
the church was found - ed and God's mes - sage taught.
de - clar - ing to the world his ho - ly name.
o - bey Christ's call and go where he shall lead.
and find each task di - vine - ly sent and blest.

GOSPEL

LUKE 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS “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; 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.

SEQUENCE

Sing verse 5.

We sit.

SERMON

REV. RICHARD LEACH

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

When the poor ones

HYMN 725

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.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each intercession ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We stand.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

We sit.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Be still

WHITLOCK

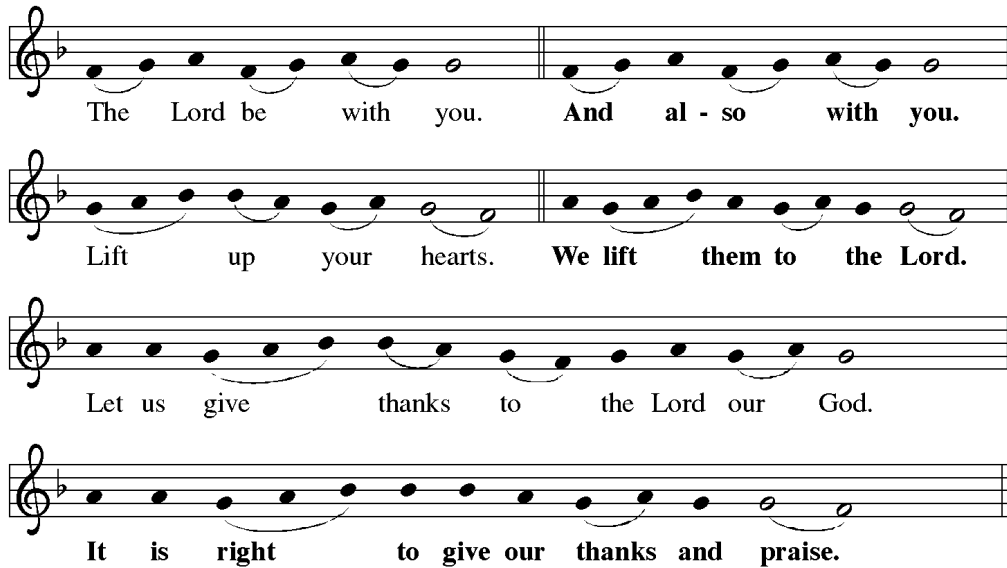
We stand.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

MERTON

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Majestic

Org. *f* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

6 *ff* might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Slower

Org. *p* Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

4 *pp* Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

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.

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.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther who art in__ hea - ven, Ha - llow'd be thy Name;
Thy king - dom come; thy will be__ done, on earth as it is in hea - ven.
Give us this day our__ dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pass - es as
we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst__ us. And lead us
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - li - ver us from e - vil. For thine is the
king - dom, the po - wer and the glo - ry, for e - ver and e - ver.
A - men. For e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Gluten-free wafers are available if requested.

We sit.

LAMB OF GOD

Slowly and gently

Org. **p**
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

7 **mp**
world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

13 **mf**
sin of the world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

19 **rit.** **p** **pp** **ppp**
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

Light dawns in a weary world

HYMN 726

We stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev ^d Richard Leach
Guest Organist	William Rehwinkle
Worship Assistant	
Reader	Teresa Moses
Communion Assistant	Teresa Moses
Acolyte	Gino D'Orta
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Eva Jakubek, Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Noel Bartels, David Hendrickson
Little Free Pantry	Cathy & Mike Mahler

Coffee/Fellowship Time

Our thanks to OWLS for hosting the fellowship time following worship today in the Welcome Room.

Little Free Pantry

The pantry is in need of peanut butter, jelly, shampoo, bar soaps, toothpaste, Parmalat milk and liquid dish soap (small containers).

To volunteer to maintain the Little Free Pantry – clean, organize, and restock – for the period of one week, contact Janet Segerdell - janet.segerdell@gmail.com.

The LFP can always use cash contributions which are used to purchase food at the Food Bank for pennies on the dollar. Your contribution will go much further through the Food Bank than purchasing at a grocery store.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Thursday, February 27

Threads of Warmth - 6:00 pm Welcome Room

Friday, February 28

Threads of Warmth - 9:00 am Welcome Room

Knit Night - 5:30 pm Sweden Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 2

Single Worship service 9:30 am Pastor Martha McCreight

Children's Sermon "Say Farewell to the Alleluia"

Note: Sneak Peek Bible Study will return on March 4.

Choir & Bells will return on March 5.



Worship Leaders & Acolytes Needed

We are in need of worship leaders in all areas; reader, worship assistant, communion assistant, and fellowship hour volunteers.

Over the upcoming months, there are many empty spots to fill. Please look at where you can help out and sign up. If you require assistance in signing up, please contact the office.

Threads of Warmth February 27-28, 2025

The Interfaith Social Ministry Collaborative will be collecting clothing items for men and women in January and February. Items needed are new socks, underwear and t-shirts and gently used jeans, hoodies, sweaters, sweatpants and blankets. Please label clothing items with sizes and drop at St. John's by February 27.

We gather at St. John's at 6:00 pm on February 27 to sort clothes. Clothing will be loaded and delivered to New Covenant Center on February 28 starting at 9:00 am. Please contact Carla Haugen if you can help with the sorting on February 27 or distribution on February 28 - please email her at haugen@optonline.net or call 203-953-6824. Thank you.

MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church Stamford CT is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, Mohican, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

saying 'farewell' to the

Alleluia

Join Pr. McCreight and the
St. John's youth in
BURYING THE 'ALLELUIA'
during worship.

**Transfiguration
Sunday**

MARCH 2, AT 9:30AM