



THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
8 & 10 AM



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Resources . . .
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW - red hymnal in the side pocket of your chair)
Now the Feast (NFC - booklet insert in back of red hymnal)
‡ Indicates a moment to make the sign of the cross, remembering you are a child of God

Prelude

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ‡ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful God,

Congregation: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie NFC p. 4

Hymn of Praise Now the Feast NFC p. 5

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: 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.

Congregation: Amen.

WORD

First Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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. 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. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither



ORDER OF WORSHIP

plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 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. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 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. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. 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.

Gospel Verse (stand) Alleluia NFC p. 8

Gospel

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to ... **Luke 6:27-38**

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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."

Pastor: (following the Gospel reading) The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you O Christ.

Hymn of the Day Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW Hymn #608

Sermon Rev. Christopher Neptun

Anthem (10 am) Praise His Holy Name Keith Hampton
Holy Cross Choir

Apostles' Creed (stand) NFC p. 9

All: 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.

Prayers of the Community

Pastor: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly prayer for the church, the world, and all of creation. Blessed is your church...God of grace,

Congregation: hear our prayer. (additional intercessions will be shared)

Sharing of Peace

The people may greet one another **as you are comfortable** with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words. As you greet one another in the main aisle, you may wish to lift your head toward the center camera above the doorway and greet the congregation online with a peace sign or wave.

Response: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Hymn Lamb of God NFC p. 16

Post-Communion Blessing ... **Congregation: Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer ... **Congregation: Amen**

SENDING

Announcements

Benediction

Dismissal

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Live in hope.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PRAYER MINISTRY

FEBRUARY PRAYER CONCERNS: For all the Men & Women who have been wounded as well as those serving in the Armed Forces; Lincoln Ross; Hannah Stieber; Carol Bajorek; Randy Westman; Vreni Forster; Sue Westerfield; Annie Krumtinger; Casey Schmid; Lauren Janowski; Larry Kaplan; Pauline Caepfert; Joanne Rank; Tyler Beckett; Jerry Kluchka; Libby O'Del- Kosowski; Heather Yapelli; Judaline Nelson; Grace Collins; Erin and Rufino Laguo; Barbara Otte; Jessica Hutchison; Jill Houser; Terri Bajorek; Carolyn Husemoller; Raef Stolp, Kelly Chartier; Cielo Moioffer; Judy Sullivan; Doug Kreiser; Laura Deegan; Mary Duncan; Alex Flores; Stan Livermore; Vasiliki Bexes; Walt Moyer; Barb Binversie; Barbara Bose; Matt Rislov; Tim Notaro; Tom Gottfried; Yale; Barb Lynch; Ruby Johnston; Kelly Yarc; Sue Garland; Donna Bye; Jessica Harren & family; Dennis Dovel; Dane Trodahl; Judy Becker; Lewis & Carole Jackson; Chuck Brewer; Halla Miller; Austin, infant son of friend of Karen Kobeck; Dave Hinze; Dick Nevins; Chuck Mauter, Dick & Gloria Cornman; Owen Kult; Raeber Family; Elaine Flanigan; Evan Holly, Jordan Moraw; Judy Luplow; Catherine Norlin; Krystal Taylor; John Wasilk; Candace Schaid; Harold Sargent; Jane; Mary Lou Farnsworth, friend of Jeri Powers, ; Bill Berg, cousin of David Fischer; Christine Simons, friend of David & Lee Fischer; Hannah Lester, daughter of dear friend of Becky Sawle; Daniel Meckes, son of a friend of Tom & Donna Thomey

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Pauline Hall, friends of Dave & Marge Stueckemann and Becky Sawle, upon her recent passing.

Our prayers of sympathy are extended to the family and friends of Rod Cummins, friends of Joe and Kristina Taylor, upon his recent passing.

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We offer a traditional Communion table with small pieces of baked bread and individual cups. Distribution will take place during the service. For those who do not wish to come forward for Communion, we will continue to provide an optional distribution practice of "individually packaged communion kits" that will be available at the table upon entry to the sanctuary. Please take a kit with you if you plan to participate in this manner. Gluten-free wafers are also available upon request.

Families desiring nursery support for children ages 0-3 are welcome to use our professionally staffed nursery in the Celebration! wing to the left of the main entrance from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Families with older children who may still need some activity to keep them engaged are welcome to utilize our Prayground in the front of the sanctuary or our Busy Bags found on the reverse side of the mini wall in the Gathering Space.

We encourage you to utilize online giving at donate.holycrosschurch.org, mail your gifts, or drop them into the offering plate.

Worship Resources . . .
 Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW - red hymnal inside pocket of your chair)
 Now the Feast (NFC folder in back of red hymnal)
 ✚ Indicates a moment to make the sign of the cross, remembering you are a child of God.

As we live-stream worship, please be aware that in-person attendance implies consent to be included in live-streamed and recorded worship services and still photos. If you would like to limit the possibility of being visible in the videos, please sit towards the back of the sanctuary.



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Senior Pastor		Rev. Christopher P. Neptun
Associate Pastor		Rev. Kathryn Freund
Director of Worship Arts		Dale Tippett, Jr.
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	8AM	10AM
Assisting Minister	<i>volunteer requested</i>	<i>volunteer requested</i>
Reader	Wayne Luplow	Dave Stueckemann
Greeters	Dan & Sarah Accettura	Val Maxwell & Manny Flores
Ushers	<i>volunteer</i>	Greg & Joyce Kveton
Communion Assistants	Joe Taylor, Wayne Luplow	Cheryl Turner,
	<i>volunteers requested</i>	<i>volunteers requested</i>
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Altar Care	Therese Delli Paoli	<i>volunteer</i>
AV Team	Corbin Chartier, Justin Smith, Ryan Berger, Zach Jones	Corbin Chartier, Justin Smith, Ryan Berger, Zach Jones
Worship Coordinator	Joe Taylor	Ralph Freye

THIS HOUR HAS SEVEN DAYS

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary
	9:00 am	Coffee Hour, fellowship area
	9:45 am	Sunday School, west wing, atrium
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary
	5:00 pm	Spring 2025 Confirmation Intensive Registration, parent & child meeting
Monday	7:00 pm	BSA Troop 194 meeting, west wing, 402
Tuesday	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast Group, Liberty Restaurant
	9:30 am	Women's Discussion Group, 208
	4:00 pm	Red Rose Children's Choir Rehearsal, west wing, 402
	* 6:00 pm	Strength & Core Exercise Group, west wing, gathering space
Wednesday	9:00 am	Quilting Group, west wing, 404
	4:00 pm	Red Rose Children's Choir Rehearsal, west wing, 402
	7:00 pm	PHW Evening Session, fellowship area
	7:00 pm	Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary
Thursday	7:00 pm	Bible Study, Zoom
	7:00 pm	Book Club, Zoom
Saturday	7:00 am	BSA Wood Badge Breakfast, fellowship area
	5:30 pm	First Saturday Worship and Holy Communion, sanctuary
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary
	9:00 am	Coffee Hour, fellowship area
	9:45 am	Sunday School, west wing, atrium
	10:00 am	Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary
	5:00 pm	Confirmation, fellowship area

* Please note day and location change this week!



Altar flowers are given today by Chuck & Pat Chianelli in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary

CONFIRMATION INTENSIVE SPRING SESSION SCHEDULE The Spring 2025 session of Confirmation begins with **registration and orientation TONIGHT, Sunday, February 23 from 5-6 pm. Parents and students must attend this session together.** Sessions 1-6 will be held on March 2, 9, 16, 23, 20 and April 6 from 5-8 pm. Confirmation rehearsal will be held on Saturday, April 12 and Affirmation of Baptism will be on Palm Sunday, April 13, at 10 am. All students grades 6-12 are eligible to attend. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org

BOOK CLUB The February book discussion will be held on Thursday, **February 27 from 7-8:30 pm** via Zoom. Kay Meyer will be our host as we discuss Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, An Unfinished Love Story. Anyone is welcome to attend!
Zoom link: holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

CROSSWAYS PRESCHOOL 2025-26 REGISTRATION Beginning on **March 1**, CrossWays Preschool will begin registration and enrollment for the Fall 2025 school year. If you know a family member or neighbor looking for preschool education, please do not hesitate to suggest CrossWays Preschool to them. Appointments for tours or additional information can be obtained by calling 847-367-4367 or by looking at our website holycrosschurch.org

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION The season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year, our Ash Wednesday worship will be held on Wednesday, March 5, beginning at 7 pm. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

MID-WEEK SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN WORSHIP



As is our custom, on Wednesday evenings, we gather around a simple soup meal and worship using the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer during the season of Lent. This year, **soup suppers will be held on five Wednesdays - March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and April 9 beginning with soup at 6 pm and moving into worship by 6:45 pm.** We are seeking soup donations for each Wednesday and you may use the QR code to the left to sign up to bring soup or help with clean up.

EASTER FLOWERS 2025



You can help us to make the sanctuary a beautiful array of color in celebration of the Resurrection by purchasing assorted spring blooms and lilies! You are welcome to take your pots following the 10 am service on Easter Sunday. Easter flower forms are available on the ushers table if you would like to complete a form and provide check payment to the church office or you may complete an order electronically with payment using the QR code on the left. **Flower orders due by March 31.**

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP



The QR code to your left is also on various signs throughout the fellowship area and outside of the sanctuary. Please use this code to navigate to our SignUp.com site and commit to assisting in a worship volunteer role on any given Sunday. If you are new to worship volunteering and you would like to learn more about any specific role, please contact the church office for more information. 847-367-4060



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