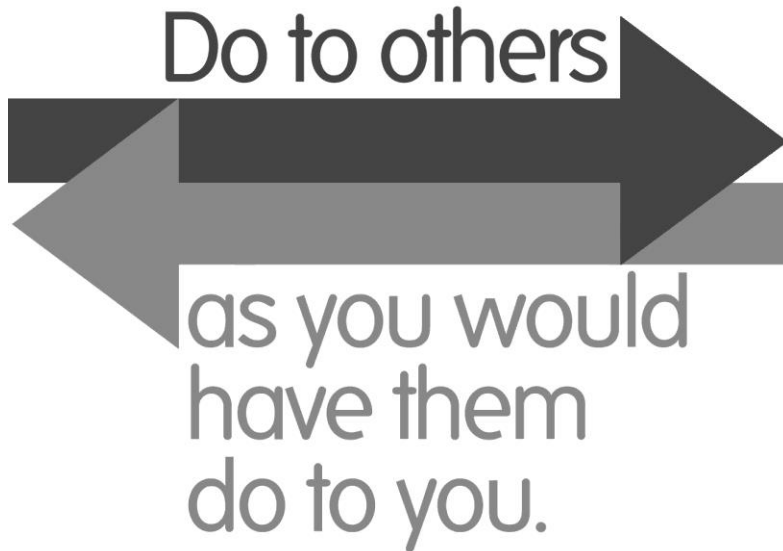


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



LUKE 6:31, NRSV

Epiphany Moments:
Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good
Seventh Sunday in Epiphany

February 23, 2025



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Service



Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven't we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself.

Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek

Acknowledgements

Setting Three from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Service: Setting Three

Setting Three begins on page 188 of the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

647 Word and Water, Filled with Promise

The Rite of Baptism

Remain seated.

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

CW152

Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence of meditation and reflection.

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font. Families may come forward.

Sacrament of Baptism

The Gospel according to St. Mark: People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

8:00 – Oliver Paul Radtke

10:30 – Kennedy Ann Weber

I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Exhortations

As parents and sponsors, it is your responsibility and privilege not only to bring this child to Baptism, but to do all you can so that *he* may serve God all the days of *his/her* life and remain a child of God until death.

Will you: pray for *him/her*?

remind *him/her* of *his/her* baptism?

teach *him/her* the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord’s Prayer, and provide for *his* further instruction in the Christian faith?

strengthen *him/her* with the Word of God and bring *him/her* to worship in the Lord’s house?

If you are willing to do so, answer: “Yes, and we ask God to help us.”

Yes, and we ask God to help us.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this child has been baptized into the family of believers, the holy Christian Church. It is our privilege and responsibility to care for the children of our congregation, to remember them in our prayers, to encourage their parents in their God-given work, and to demonstrate a Christian life. If you are willing to do so, answer: “Yes, and we ask God to help us.”

Yes, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received *Oliver/Kennedy* as your own child and made *him/her* a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *him/her* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written on eight staves in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,"

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 45:3–15

The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers after they had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?”

His brothers could not answer him, because they were terrified by his presence. ⁴Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me, please.”

They came closer. He said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves for selling me to this place, since God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. ⁶For two years now the famine has been in the land, and there are still five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as survivors on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great act of deliverance. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry, go up to my father and tell him, “This is what your son Joseph says: “God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me. Do not delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the land of Goshen, where you will be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will take care of you here, for there are still five years of famine. Otherwise you will come to ruin, you, and your household, and all that you have.” ¹²Pay attention. Your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You shall tell my father all about my position of honor in Egypt and about everything that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

¹⁴He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. ¹⁵He kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that his brothers talked with him. (EHV®)

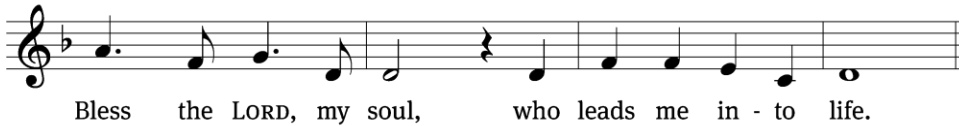
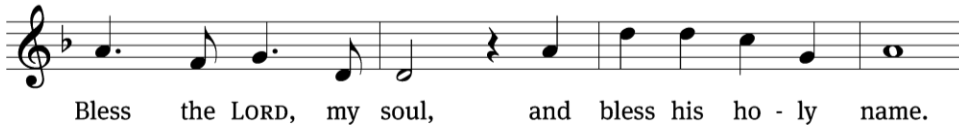
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

103C Bless the LORD, My Soul

Having received the Lord's forgiveness, compassion, and love, we give the same to our enemies.
The choir will sing the refrain the first time, please join as it is repeated.

Refrain:



- 1 It is God who forgives all your guilt,
who heals ev'ry one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **Refrain**
- 2 The LORD is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **Refrain**
- 3 As a father has compassion on his children,
the LORD has pity on those who fear him;
for God knows of what we are made,
and remembers that we are dust. **Refrain**

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Second Reading

Romans 12:14–21

Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggressing. Yet, he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

¹⁷Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble.

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord.

²⁰But: If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:44,45



Refrain

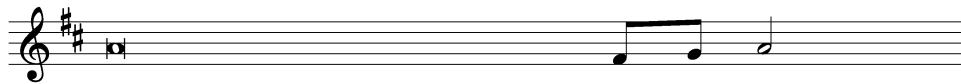


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

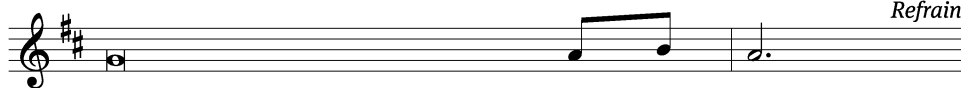


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



Love your enemies and pray for those who perse - cute you,



that you may be children of your Father in heav - en.

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Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

In our interactions with others, Jesus calls us to disregard what people deserve. Instead, we are to show the same grace that God has shown to us.

²⁷“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other too. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes away your things, do not demand them back.

³¹“Treat others just as you would want them to treat you. ³²If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? To be sure, even the sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same thing.

³⁴If you lend to those from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners lend to sinners in order to be paid back in full. ³⁵Instead, love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. ³⁶Be 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, and running over will be poured into your lap. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

Sermon

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special prayers and intercession

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

† Miss Winecki returned the call to serve as a primary grade teacher

† For Destinee Fiecko who holds a call to serve in Doral , FL

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Connect Card and Offering

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn

733 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



Take Home Questions

Genesis 45:3-15

1. Share what you know about the rest of the account surrounding Joseph and his brothers. (Read Genesis 37, 42-45 to familiarize yourself with the account.)
2. How does that context shape the interaction with Joseph and his brothers in this reading?

Romans 12:14-21

1. Why does Paul qualify his words in verse 18 with the words, “if it is possible”? How might our sinful nature try to misuse those words?
2. Respond to the following statement: If I don’t get revenge on that person who harmed me, he will get away with it.

Luke 6:27-38

1. What kind of objections might our sinful nature raise to Jesus’ words here?
2. Contrast the way the world thinks about love with the way Christians think about love.
3. Distinguish between the right kind of judging and the wrong kind of judging. (See Matthew 7:3-5; 18:15-18)

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study Hour: 1 Peter

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Hygiene Drive Begins

Feb. 23-Mar. 9

SNAP benefits (AKA food stamps) do not cover items like toothpaste, laundry detergent, or even toilet paper. That is why once a year communities across our state hold a special drive to collect hygiene products and cleaning supplies. Your donations will stay with local charities like FOCUS Food Pantry, The Hannah Center (a shelter for pregnant women), and The Family Center (a domestic violence shelter). The Hygiene Drive runs for just three weeks, Feb. 23-Mar. 16. Let's see how much we can collect!

Only One Midweek Lenten Service This Year

This year, we are trying a new schedule for our midweek worship and fellowship meal. We will have only one Wednesday worship service at 5:00 pm with a meal to follow at 5:45 pm. With so many things vying for time and pulling groups apart, we hope this change will help us as a congregation come together as one family of believers at the foot of the cross. Midweek Service begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5. We hope you will join us.

Rabbits, Baby Chicks, Colored Eggs?

April 12

If kids don't hear about Jesus and his resurrection, Easter doesn't make much sense. What is there to celebrate? Help us share the good news about Jesus' victory over death at Easter for Kids on Saturday, April 12. This half-day, VBS-style event needs lots of volunteers especially on the morning of the event. Both leaders and lots of helpers are necessary. Areas include crafts, lesson, music, make-a-snack, games, registration, childcare, lunch, setup & takedown. See the sign-up sheets on the Ministry Table or look for the link on our website under the Serve tab.

Call Meeting

Feb. 25 | 6:30 PM

Miss Winicke has returned the call to serve as our primary grades teacher. Another call meeting is set for this Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 pm.

Family Fun Night Coming

Mar. 6 | 5:30 PM

An indoor kickball tournament is planned for the Family Fun Night on Thursday, March 6, 5:30-8:30 pm. Food and drink will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Everyone in the church or school family is welcome to attend.

Calendar

February 23-March 2

Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
	4:30 PM	Choir Practice in the Balcony
	5:30 PM	Men's Devotional Basketball in the gym
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Call Meeting
	6:30 PM	Stephen Ministers in the Welcome Center
Wednesday	8:35 AM	Principal to Parent Bible Study in the Welcome Center
	8:55 AM	School Chapel Service
	5:30 PM	Handbell Practice in the balcony
	6:30 PM	Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
	6:30 PM	Bible Book Group in the Resource Center
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	6:00 PM	Bible & Brews at B's Tap House
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	2:00 PM	Co-ed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 178

Amazing Grace Update

Thru Feb. 16: \$32,571 toward mortgage principal

Goal: \$125,000 in 125 days (by May 31)

Next Sunday

Theme: Glory Is Hidden in Order to Be Revealed

Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18; Luke 9:28-36





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