

Sunday, February 23, 2025
The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

“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.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve
2000 W. Sixth St. Racine, Wisconsin

Thanks to assisting minister Lynn Sinclair, lector Jordan Doidge, communion assistants Asia Doidge and Jaxon Doidge, audio-visual technician Kathy Berg and Kylee Albright, altar guild Karen Johnson, Cindy Myhre, and Lynn Riekkoff, ushers Jim Buhler, Todd Jansen, Tim Krikau, Gary Wee, and Dave Barlament, coffee fellowship Shelley Lussmyer, council person in charge Rose Adamski, the Bell Choir, the Senior Choir, Gregory Berg, and organist Randy Fischer for sharing their time and talent with us this morning.

PRELUDE *(A quiet time of reflection, to prepare for worship.)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***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.

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.

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.

858

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

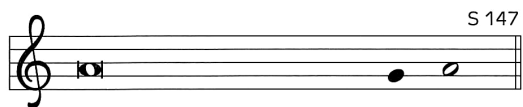
Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14 14 4 7 8

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



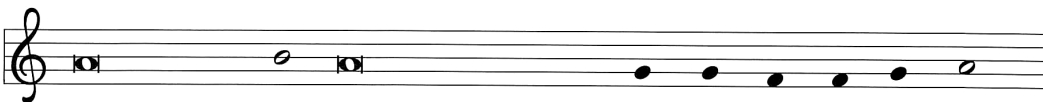
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Refrain
Assisting minister S 149



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

ANTHEM “*Glorious Spirit*” Bell Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MY GO TO CHOIR

WORD

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.

The word of the Lord.

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 ¹ 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.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

The holy gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “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; 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 Pastor Laura Fladten

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Senior Choir sings the first verse in the original Spanish*
Congregation sings verses one and four

COMMITMENT, DISCIPLESHIP

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**You Have Come Down
to the Lakeshore**
Tú has venido a la orilla



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
treasure nor weapons for conquest, just these my
love for the rest of the weary— a love that's
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
ask - ing for me to fol - low.
fish nets and will for work - ing.
will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
Music: Cesáreo Gabaráin

Text and music © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP Publications

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
8 10 10 and refrain

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***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,
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it in heaven.
Give us this day is 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

S 191

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

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Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, Your command to us is clear: "Love one another." We thank you for those in our lives - whoever they may be - who have shown us what it means to love others without reservation. Help us in turn to live our lives in such a way that others will see love in our words and deeds. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, Your command to us is clear: "Love one another." You call us to love not only those who are easy to love, but to also love those who are challenging to love, for whatever reason. You even call us to love those who see us - or those who we see - as enemies. Enlarge our understanding of what it means to be a loving person, and especially what it means to love in the face of suspicion or even hatred, that the light of Your love may brighten the darkest corners of our world. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, Your command to us is clear: "Love one another," and it is when we give generously and selflessly that we truly embody Your love. Inspire and energize our efforts to extend compassion to the poor, the marginalized, the isolated, and the forgotten. We especially pray for all who are feeling vulnerable, rejected, or targeted in any way and call our attention to each and every opportunity we are given to extend grace and kindness to those who most need it. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, Your command to us is clear: "Love one another," and You tell us it is especially important to do so when people are hurting or laid low with difficult burdens. Surround with Your mercy and grace all those contending with illness, exhaustion, chronic pain, or any difficulty in mind, body, or spirit. Today we name..... Walk with them and with their caregivers, and show all of us how we can walk with them as well. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

God, Your command to us is clear: "Love one another," and You grieve when we erect barriers that impede love in any way. Dislodge us from any bigotry that clouds our vision and robs us of joy- and help us to see the value of all loving and nurturing relationships. Bless this congregation and help it to be a place that is truly welcoming and affirming to all people- no matter their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or economic status. May this be a community where all are treasured and understood. Lord in Your Mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Hear these spoken prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts, that we may know in full measure your abundant love, made perfect in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we pray.

AMEN

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG vv. 1 & 4**

631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - mighty - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

HYFRYDOL

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

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POSTLUDE



Announcements

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Arlene Howe on her birthday given by her daughter, Cheryl Davis and in honor of Claire Stein's birthday, given with love by her mom, Rhonda Deneka.

Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after the worship service for coffee, a treat, and conversation.

Communion By Intinction

All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. If you prefer to take communion in your pew, there are individual wafer/juice cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

Sledding Today

Everyone is invited to join us for sledding after worship today! We will gather together and caravan over to Lockwood Park on Ohio St. We can't wait to race you down the hill!

Youth Gathering Reunion Tonight

It is time for a gathering reunion! We'll get together tonight from 5:00 - 6:30 for dinner and hopefully play some hilarious games. We can't wait to see you all together again!

Ketchup Club

We're gathering for breakfast at Aries Café, 4713 Douglas Ave., at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25th. These gatherings are a fun way to "catch up" with old friends and make some new ones! Please let Pastor Laura, pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com or the office, office.hclc@gmail.com, know if you will be joining us so we can reserve a table. If you unexpectedly find yourself available come join us and we will happily make some room at the table for you!

HCLC Scholarship

We are pleased to offer a scholarship for Holy Communion students moving on to higher education after high school! To qualify, you must be a Holy Communion member, accepted and attending an undergraduate university, college, or technical school for the 2025-2026 school year. This is a one-time scholarship (\$500) for youth who have been active in the life of faith (Sunday School, Confirmation, volunteering) at Holy Communion. There is a short application requirement. Applications are available in the office or via email, office.hclc@gmail.com. Applications should be returned to the church office at hclc.office@gmail.com by April 30. Applications will be reviewed, and we will require a class schedule to be submitted before funds will be released. Any questions? Please contact Lynn Helmke at lynnhelmke226@gmail.com.

Finance Update

December Finance Numbers
Revenue: \$97,528.73
Expense: \$75,637.56
Net Income: \$21,891.17

Year to Date Finance Numbers
Revenue: \$592,795.17
Expense: \$561,138.33
Net Income: \$31,656.84

Collecting Hygiene Items

We are helping the Health Club at Walden School collect hygiene items for HALO and the Women's Resource Center. There will be a collection box here on Sunday, March 2nd and Sunday, March 9th where you can drop off your donations, or you can bring them to the office during the week. They are asking for donations of:

-Deodorant	-Tampons	-Pads
-Toothpaste	-Toothbrush	-Mouthwash
-Floss	-Hand Sanitizer	-Shampoo
-Conditioner	-Body Wash	-Bar soap
-Kleenex	-Band-aids	-Chapstick

Prayers For the Healing Service

We will have a healing service on Sunday, March 9. During the service prayers from the congregation are read. You can email your prayers to the church office (office.hclc@gmail.com), give them to a pastor, or If you are emailing your prayers, please send them by noon on Friday, March 7th. Parents, we would like to have prayers from our kids, too, so please help them write prayers too,

Diaper Ministry

Thank you for your support of the Diaper Ministry. We are helping an average of 40 children and adults each session. New to the ministry is a monthly subscription to Diaper Depot & More in Kenosha. The Depot provides available diapers in varying sizes for \$30/month. Would you please consider sponsoring one month of the Diaper Depot delivery? Sponsorship would be a huge help in providing diapers and wipes to serve families in need. If you would like to sponsor a specific month in honor or memory of someone, please let us know. Also, if you have children's books at home you no longer need, please bring them in for the diaper ministry. The next distribution date is February 26th from 4-6 p.m. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with any questions.

Food Pantry News

Thank you to all who continue to share in our ministry with your food and monetary donations. For March we are asking for donations of 1 lb. bags or boxes of rice, egg noodles, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti, jelly, and macaroni and cheese.

Noisy Offering Impact

The January 2025 Noisy Offering collections (\$239.09) were sent to Lutheran World Relief to be used for helping victims of the California fires.

Upcoming Worship, Education, Service, and Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday, Feb. 23 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
11:00 Sledding at Lockwood Park
Monday, Feb. 24 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Tuesday, Feb. 25 - 9:30 Ketchup Club
1:00 Quilters
Wednesday, Feb. 26 - 4:00-6:00 Diaper Ministry
Friday, Feb. 28 - 12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, March 2 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School
Monday, March 3 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry
Wednesday, March 5 - 9:30 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Friday, March 7 - 12:30 Food Pantry
Sunday, March 9 - 9:00 Worship/Sunday School
Monday, March 10 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study
12:30 Food Pantry