February 23, 2025—Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude *"Andante in C Dur"* by Alinda B. Couper

Opening Hymn ELW #815 *" I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*



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Opening Hymn con't **ELW #815 "*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*"**



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.

C: Amen.

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.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

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. R
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 on- | ly to evil. R
9 For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess 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 pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance 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. **R**

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, 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.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel **Luke 6:27-38**

[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."
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day ELW #673 "*God, Whose Almighty Word*"



Offertory Anthem "*Guide My Feet*" arr. by Jacqueline Hairston

Closing Hymn **ELW #720 "*We Are Called*"**



Postlude **"*Come, King*" by Mark Thewes**

Please remember these individuals in your prayers: Lupe, Raymond, Bonnie, Bob, Rachel, Sandy, Mary, Doug, Donna, Lola, Marte, Bernie, Elizabeth, Dee, Nick, Mike, Wilma, Non

Today's celebrants:

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook
Deacon: Kim Baratta
Lector: Marne Turer
Greeter: Guenter Siedel
Song Leaders: Marisa Buchheit, Jade Dasha, Ryan Alexander Avery Sujkowski
Choir members: Richard Gaul, Dan Lantvit, Mary-Ann Lupa, Betsy Ries, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck
Organist & Choir Director: Paul Dykstra

Announcements

For Council members: Join us in the gym following worship today for the council meeting.

Looking Ahead to Lent

Sunday, March 2nd

Join us on Sunday, March 2nd for a morning of activities:
We will have the annual burning of the palms during worship that day at 10am. Following the service, join us in the fellowship hall for a special Mardi Gras potluck as we enjoy all our favorite treats before entering the reflective season of Lent. Bring a favorite dish to share with everyone for the meal.

Also, bring your palms for the burning of the palms as we bury the Alleluia and prepare for Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on March 5th for an Ash Wednesday service at 7pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes as begin the season of Lent.

Additionally, take a look at the Lent flyer enclosed in today's bulletin for all information about our Lenten 'Call to Mindfulness". We hope you will join us on this journey during Lent.