

Forgiven

7th Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025 -11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

God's grace and mercy looks at us when we're at our worst and still desires what is good for us. The result of this mercy and grace is forgiveness.

Forgiveness is something no one finds easy and yet it is something none of us can live without. Sometimes we need to be reminded of God's promise of forgiveness. Through the death and resurrection of his own Son, God opens the way for us to see Him and know Him and enjoy Him forever. The question then, becomes: How can we respond to others with the same mercy and grace and forgiveness that God has shown us?!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"My Jesus"
"Less Like Me"

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 45:3-8a,15

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!"

⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸"So, then, it was not you who sent me here, but God." . . . ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:21-26; 35-44

²¹For since death came, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. ²⁴Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁵But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" ³⁶How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

³⁸But God gives it a body as He has determined, and to each kind of seed He gives its own body. ³⁹All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

⁴²So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27-36

²⁷[Jesus taught,] "But I tell you who hear Me: 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, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"Forgive and Forget"
(Today's Readings)

Rev. Doug Slavens

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: I invite you to join me in confessing our sins before our heavenly Father:

C: Dear Father in heaven, I confess to You my sinfulness. I struggle with trusting You and Your ways. I sin in thought, word, and action. I've not loved You with my whole heart; I've not loved my neighbor as myself. For the sake of Jesus who suffered the punishment of death for my sins, forgive me. Restore me according to Your promises and Your purposes! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Silent time for personal reflection on God's Word

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN!

WE DECLARE OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD – NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

GOD COMES TO US IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

WE SING DURING DISTRIBUTION

"You Alone Can Rescue"

"You Say"

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

WE PRAY TO OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Yes He Can"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriamlutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.