



# Love your enemies

LUKE 6:27

## Complete Worship Folder

February 23, 2025 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

February 26, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

## ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

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### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

Hymn: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (ELW 656)

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the unity of heart and mind  
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

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### Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.) & Dismiss to Children's Church

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.' " <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> 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.

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

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. <sup>50</sup> 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: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation: “Thy Word” (CCLI 14301 *Chorus Only*)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
And a light unto my path

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, 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 himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> 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: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" (ELW 605)

"Forgive our sins as we forgive,"  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others' debts to us;  
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

The Prayers of the Children of God

Each petition ends...God of grace,

**Congregation responds...hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: “Arise, Your Light Has Come!” (ELW 314, *verses 1,4*)

Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light has come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing,  
God's pow'r will make us strong.

#### Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

#### Thanksgiving

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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

#### Invitation to Communion / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Communion Songs: “Build a Longer Table” (ACS 1062)

Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
For any place where justice is denied,  
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.  
Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.

Love protects all people, sparing no expense.  
When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” (ELW 708)

**Refrain**        Jesu, Jesu,  
                      fill us with your love,  
                      show us how to serve  
                      the neighbors we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. **Refrain**

Neighbors are wealthy and poor,  
varied in color and race,  
neighbors are near us and far away. **Refrain**

These are the ones we will serve,  
these are the ones we will love;  
all these are neighbors to us and you. **Refrain**

Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet:  
this is the way we will live with you. **Refrain**

Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen**

Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" (ELW 608)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

**Refrain** "Come home, (Come home,)  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

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### Dismissal

A: We work together to spread Christ's love with our community

**C: Through an Open Heart, Open Mind, and an Open Table.**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Thy Word, Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith CCLI Song #14301 © 1984 Meadowgreen Music Company; Curb Word Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #2006453.

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