

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany

## Forgive One Another

February 23, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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### **As We Gather:**

For many Christians, forgiving others is the hardest thing that Jesus has called us to do. It is natural for us to treat people well if they treat us well; but if they hurt us or our loved ones, they don't deserve any consideration! I believe that the only way we can get to the point of sincerely forgiving someone is when Jesus helps us. After all, Jesus forgives us. He loves us even though we certainly don't deserve any consideration from him. It's only when we look to Jesus that we have any hope of forgiving others. Even then, it may take some time for Jesus' love to get past our hurts. Ironically, only when we get to the point of forgiveness can we be free from the past. They say, "To err is human; to forgive is divine." Jesus, help us to truly forgive each other.

### **The Season of Epiphany**

"Epiphany" means the "revelation" or "manifestation" of God. Jesus Christ is God, who came to our world as one of us. Jesus showed himself to be our God and Savior, not only to the Jews but also to people of every nation and culture. These people "had an epiphany", that is, they saw Jesus and came to realize who Jesus really is, and they believed in him. The light went on!

We also have "had an epiphany" because we have come to see that Jesus is our God and Savior too! And God wants the people around us also to come to understand and believe in Jesus. During January and February (the season of Epiphany this year), we are hearing from the Bible how many different people saw the light of Jesus and came to believe in him. And God's Word also shows us how we can shine the light of Jesus to the people around us, by what we say and do.

### **Prelude**

### **Words of Welcome**

Stand

### **Sharing God's Peace with One Another**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Hymn: Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (Lutheran Service Book 851)



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of



and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"  
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." (John 8:12)  
**C** **He wants his light to shine in our lives.**
- P** Jesus shines through us,  
**C** **And we reflect his light.**
- P** Just as Jesus loves everyone,  
**C** **We too should love the same way.**
- P** Just as Jesus stretched out his hand to the suffering and the needy,  
**C** **So we also should help wherever we can.**
- P** Just as Jesus proclaimed the forgiveness of sins,  
**C** **So we also should proclaim to others and forgive others.**
- P** In this way we will light up the world with Christ's light.  
**C** **The Bible says, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)**
- P** We are that people, and Jesus is our light.  
**C** **May the world see the light of Christ in our lives. Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness

- P** We have not always let Christ's light shine clearly in our lives. Let's take a moment to pray and ask God for forgiveness.
- C** **Lord God, many times your light doesn't shine in our lives as it should. Forgive us and fill us with your love so that we can be brighter lights in this dark world. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.**
- P** God says, "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." (Isaiah 43:25) The Lord doesn't "remember" our sins because Jesus suffered and died to pay for them and because he rose from the dead to forgive us. Through faith in Jesus, all our sins and wrongdoing are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalm 103:8-13

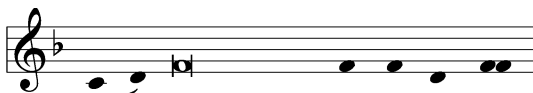
- P** The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**C** **Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** He will not always chide,  
**C** **Nor will he keep his anger forever.**

- P** He does not deal with us according to our sins,
- C** **Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
- P** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
- C** **So great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him.**
- P** As far as the east is from the west,
- C** **So far does he remove our transgressions from us.**
- P** As a father shows compassion to his children,
- C** **So the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.**

**A** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Kyrie

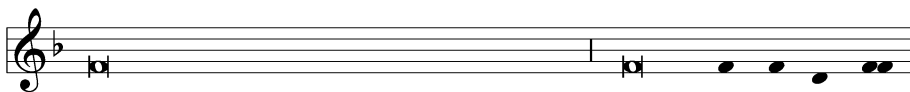
*LSB 152*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.




**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** 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.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

*LSB 154*

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.

**C** 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.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord Jesus, you loved and forgave us when we did not deserve it. Help us to love and forgive each other in the same way. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

*Genesis 45:3-15*

*(Joseph forgives his brothers who had treated him so horribly)*

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>And 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 tarry. <sup>10</sup>You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup>And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup>You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

<sup>14</sup>Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle (New Testament Reading)**

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

*(In the resurrection from the dead, we will have new, glorified bodies)*

<sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

<sup>30</sup>Why am I in danger every hour? <sup>31</sup>I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! <sup>32</sup>What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup>Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." <sup>34</sup>Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, 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>39</sup>For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. <sup>40</sup>There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. <sup>41</sup>There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

<sup>42</sup>So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

*(Jesus tells us to forgive and love even our enemies)*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what



benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

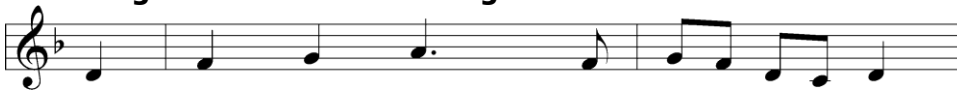
**Song while Children Come to the Front:** I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

1. I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart, down in my heart.  
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.  
Down in my heart to stay.

Refrain: And I’m so happy, so very happy,  
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.  
And I’m so happy, so very happy.  
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart.

**Children’s Message**

## 843 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"  
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless  
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can  
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
owed to us, How great our debt to You!  
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

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### Sermon

Stand

## Baptism

### Scripture Reading

- ☐ Jesus Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "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." In the last chapter of Mark, Jesus promises: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved."
- ☐ Lucian, receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one rescued by Christ the crucified.

### Prayer

- ☐ **Almighty God, we bring Lucian before you. We pray that you give him your Holy Spirit, so that he will have faith in Jesus as his Savior all the days of his life. Wash him from all evil, forgive him and help him to live as a new person. Let him know that he is your child. Give him your love every day and in the end, bring him to eternal life with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## Words to the Parents and Godparents

- P** A little child is not able to take care of herself, but depends on her parents for everything. Lucian depends on you, not only for his physical food and care, but also with regard to his faith. It is good that you have brought him to be baptized! But afterwards you must raise him up in the Christian faith. Jesus said to make disciples by baptizing and also teaching. God is calling you to pray for Lucian, to teach him about Jesus, to show him how to follow Jesus, how to pray, how to understand the Bible. God wants you to encourage Lucian and bring him to join with other Christians in worship. Will you commit to doing this? If so, say, "I will, with the help of God."

### **Parents and Godparents: I will, with the help of God.**

- P** God enable you to do this faithful and loving work and with his grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

### **Parents and Godparents: Amen.**

- P** Hear the Gospel according to Mark: "They brought young children to [Jesus] that he might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was greatly displeased and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them." This is the Word of the Lord.

### **C Thanks be to God.**

## Baptism Questions

- P** We believe that God can work faith in the hearts of little children just as much, if not more, than in older people. Nevertheless, very little children cannot yet express what is in their hearts. Therefore I ask you parents and godparents to answer for Lucian just as you speak for him and protect him in many other ways.

Lucian, do you renounce all the devil's works and ways?

### **Parents and Godparents: Yes, Lucian and we renounce them.**

- P** Do you believe in God? I invite the whole congregation to join in this response, in the words of the Apostle's Creed:

### **C I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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.**

**On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. And 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.**

**P** This is the Christian faith. Do you wish to baptize Lucian in this faith?

**Parents and Godparents: Yes.**

## **Baptism**

**P** Lucian Velazco, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Parents and Godparents:** *(placing hands on child)* **May God bless you and keep you strong in faith. Amen.**

**P** *(placing hands on child)* Almighty God, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you, strengthen you in faith until Jesus comes again. Amen.

## **Baptismal Candle**

**P** *(lighting the baptismal candle and giving it to the parents or the godparents)* Receive this burning light to show that you belong now to Christ, the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ. Amen.

You may extinguish the candle now, to take it home. May I suggest that you keep the candle in a special place and take it out and light it on special occasions such as Lucian's birthday, or on the anniversary of his baptism. Light it with him and remind him that God loves him, that he is baptized, that he belongs to the Lord, and that Jesus wants him to live in the light, in faith and love. Amen.

## **Presentation**

**P** I present to you Lucian, new-born in the Lord, our brother in Jesus' name!

**C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. May God bless you always!**

**P** Peace be with you all.

**C Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

We go to God with all of our needs, because he is our light.

**P** Lord God, thank you for your salvation. Please grant us your peace.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father we pray for your church, here at Ascension and around the world. Protect your people, guide us and help us to shine your light to the community around us.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Holy Spirit, we pray for those who do not yet believe in Jesus. Take away the veil that covers their eyes and encourage them to turn to your light.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we pray for all pastors and teachers and leaders and all who serve. Keep them in your truth and help them in their mission.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for our nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all. Guide our leaders and protect all who serve.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we pray for our world. Bring peace and justice, especially in Israel and other places where there is oppression or fighting.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, for the immigrants and for those in prison.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Heavenly Father, heal those who are sick and encourage those who are depressed or grieving.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord Jesus, let your love rule in our church and in our families. Reconcile those who are at odds with each other.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for seasonable weather and for the earth to be fruitful in order to provide for the needs of every person.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, we ask for your mercy for those on our prayer list. Some are members of our congregation; many are our friends and relatives; all need your help. Comfort those who are grieving; heal those who are sick; help and strengthen those who are facing daunting problems. *(See the prayer list at the end of this order of service.)*

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, we pray for these and for all our needs of body, mind, heart and soul. We put them in your hands and trust in your mercy. In Jesus' name.

## **C Amen.**

Sit

### **Offering**

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (Romans 11:33-36, NIV) We owe everything to God! And so we set aside for God's mission a portion of what he has blessed us with.

### **Choir Anthem during the Offering** Prayer of St. Francis (S. Temple)

- 1. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.*
- 2. Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light,  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.*
- 3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console,  
To be understood as to understand,  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*
- 4. Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
In giving of ourselves that we receive,  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

Stand

### **Offering Prayer**

- A Lord, bless and prosper the work of our hands as we bring you the first and best of the fruit of our labor. Let these offerings be used to proclaim your glory and support your mission. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Offertory: We Are One in the Spirit** (Praise y Adoración 667)

1. We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit. We are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

### Lord's Prayer

**A** **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.**

### Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

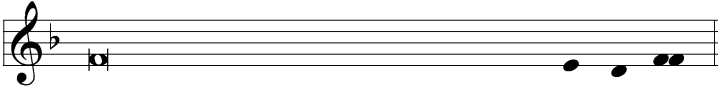
### Closing Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord God, you are the strength of those who hope in you. Be with us, we pray, and help us in our weakness. Guide us so that we can be different, so that we can become more and more like Jesus. In Jesus' own name we pray. Amen.**

### Benediction

LSB 166



- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



- C** A - men.

### **Closing Hymn: We've a Story to Tell To the Nations** (SPW 184)

1. We've a story to tell to the nations  
That will turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy,  
A story of peace and light.

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn into dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright,  
And the Kingdom of God shall come to earth,  
The Kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations  
That will lift their hearts to the Lord,  
A song that will conquer evil  
And shatter the spear and sword. (Refrain)
3. We've a message to give to the nations –  
That the Lord who reigns from above  
Has sent us his Son to save us  
And show us that God is love. (Refrain)
4. We've a Savior to show to the nations  
Who the path of sorrow has trod,  
That all of the nations and peoples  
Might come to the truth of God. (Refrain)

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## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## **Worship Leaders**

Pastor:	Rev. Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elder:	Ron Seiders
Acolyte:	Aden Morales
Reader:	Ron Seiders
Ushers:	Team #2

## **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

The passing of **Donna Welch** (sister of Candy Gebler), pray for peace and comfort for the Gelber and Welch family.

The passing of **Jeremiah Johnson** (nephew of David DeMartelaere), pray for peace and comfort for the Johnson family and for the DeMartelaere family.

The passing of **Marcy La Framboise** (friend of Connie Swinney), pray for peace and comfort for the Framboise family and for Connie.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Ascension's housekeeping Lorena's daughter Alexa** (Prayers for Alexa's continued concussion recovery and, praise God, her Dad was uninjured in the auto accident); **Andy Barber** (Pray for pain relief radiating from neck to hands); **Bob Gallagher** (Praise God endoscopy revealed no cancer, pray for confirmation in pending biopsy); **Ruthy Pople** (for safe travels to join her family); **Kirstin Hervin**(daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke), for treatment to keep Lupus under control; Judith **Morenos** (for continued recovery from COVID and improvement at home; for comfort and strength for the family); **Dov Kupfer** (our Sanctuary flower provider, for encouragement, strength and resources to recover from condo fire); **Melissa Reddick** (friend of Barbara Lewis diagnosed with inoperable cancer, pray for a miracle, peace and comfort for her and her family); **Turner Allen** (Praises for successful knee surgery and for recovery); **Skipper Balgemann** (Brother of Maxx Balgemann, for continued improvement and support, expect discharge 21 Jan); **Pastor Patten and Marilyn** (Marilyn fell and broke her leg. She is at White Acres (Good Samaritan) in rehab. Pray for healing for Marilyn and for strength and patience for both Pastor & Marily); **BJ Schwab** (Praise the Lord! Her recent thyroid biopsy came back benign); (**Helen Weesner** (friend of Maritza Schlak recovery from mini stroke), **Gloria Voge** (for successful therapy and strengthening of her legs with resulting better mobility); **Sophia**, Lorena's mother, Concepcion Arellanes's, caregiver, has cancer (prayers for recovery). **Margaret Yeager** (complete recovery with no complications); **Aubrey McDermott** (15-year-old with MS in hospital due to stroke); **Ken McLennan** (pray for upcoming heart procedure and peace, patience, and strength for his wife); **Barb Spott** (for no further medical issues and for relief from vertigo); **Richard Neal** (husband of Martha Neal recovery from stroke and for peace and strength for Richard and Martha); **Abigail Kailukatis** (friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth for

effective treatment); **Lupita Burke** (Ascension Preschool Teacher recovery from fracture); **Merle DeMartelaere** (father of David DeMartelaere), correct diagnosis and treatment for Edema and AFib); **David Kwiatkowski** (friend of Connie Swinney recovery and treatment for brain cancer); **Gilbert Provencio** (for safe travel and successful craniotomy shunt drain procedure in Phoenix leading to walking improvement); **Mary Lou Provencio** (pray for safe travel, strength, peace and guidance); **Elizabeth Hinson**, (for recovery from intestinal bug); **Jim Werner** (brother of Elliott Werner successful treatment of and healing from cancer); ; **Brian Stickney** (recovery from cracked ribs); **Rebekah Livesay** (For healing and correct diagnosis; **Dick Seiders** (father of Ron Seiders healing from cancer and recovery from hip surgery); **Mary Spott** (Barb Spott's niece Keighley Spott's mother heart related issues); **Ann Perdue** ( relief from Osteoarthritis); **Amanda Bowser** (friend of the Walker Family recovery from cancer); **Sherri Pfeifer Wilson** (niece of Vicki Pfeifer cancer); **Patty Jones**, (sister of Martha Neal-stage 4 breast cancer); **Robert and Karin Gaudet**, (restoring relationships); **Sean Sweeney**, (brain tumor); **Laurie Sterling**, (colon cancer); **Bruce Walker**, (being treated for Parkinson's); **Coby Clark and family**, continued cancer recovery); **Ryan Walker**, (cancer is in remission), **Mariella Kraus**, (cancer), **Kathy Kiphart**, **John Weiske**, **Linda Seiders**.

### **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Steve Wilmeth** (Thanks be to God for successful cataract surgery);

**Gretchen Schmalz's nephew 's son** (Thanksgiving for safe survival in Toronto plane crash);

**Jean DeWitt** (Thanks and Paise for good annual checkup results);

**Marjy Brady** (Becca called us this week stating she'll be staying in San Diego another 3 yrs at Balboa Naval Hospital following her Fellowship which ends in June. (She owes the Navy 6 more yrs!)) Thank you, Lord!;

If you have an update to the status of those on our prayer list, please contact Jan Schlak or the church office.

## Ascension News & Notes



Gloria Voge

Feb 24

## Job Opening

Ascension has an open position for an administrative assistant to our pastor and other church staff members.

The position is part time, working five to six hours per day on Tuesdays through Fridays, though some flexibility of schedule may be required.



Anyone interested in this position can contact the church office by  
alc6520@swbell.net  
eMail .

Position details are posted on church website  
<https://alconnect.faith>

On Sunday Jan 26, we sang

**"Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."**

We, the people of Ascension, demonstrated that when we collected \$260 in donations to help Dov Kupfer (our sanctuary flower supplier) to help recover from his condo fire and loss of flower supplies.

**Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!**

A Valentines card was provided with the gift:



28 Jan 25

Dov,

God is our refuge and  
strength, an ever-present  
help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

I hope this helps you  
during your time of  
adversity.

Blessings,  
The People of  
Ascension



# LCMS Youth Gathering

## ENDURE

July 19-23, 2025; New Orleans, LA



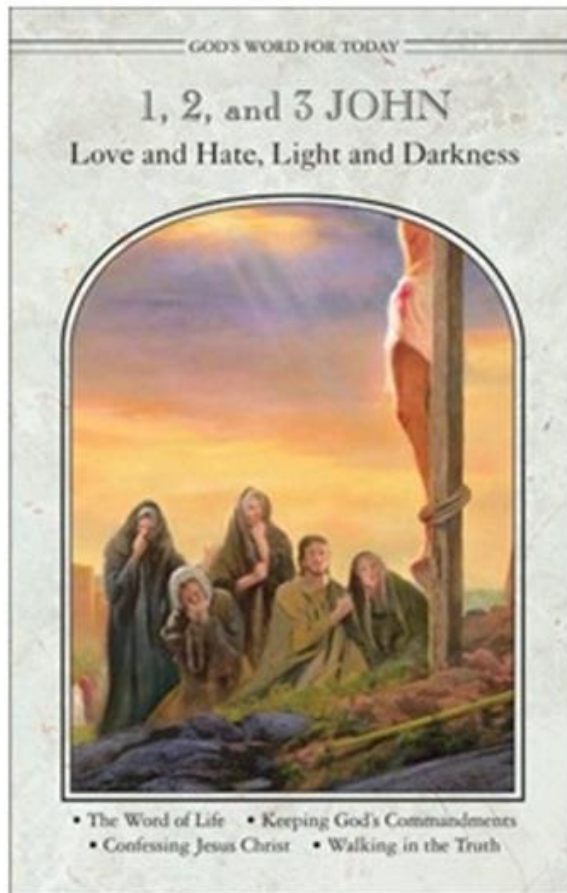
- Youth Gatherings celebrate the meaning of Christian joy in all of life's situations, including transitions and crisis.
- Youth Gatherings recognize and affirm the diversity of God's people.
- Participants **ENDURE** faithfully no matter what they encounter
- Participants cling to and share the good news of God's faithfulness in Christ that **ENDURES forever**

If interested contact the Pastor, David DeMartelaere, or Jacob Meraz for information and registration forms

**The Thursday morning Bible study is studying 1, 2,3 John.  
We meet at the church on Thursday mornings.**

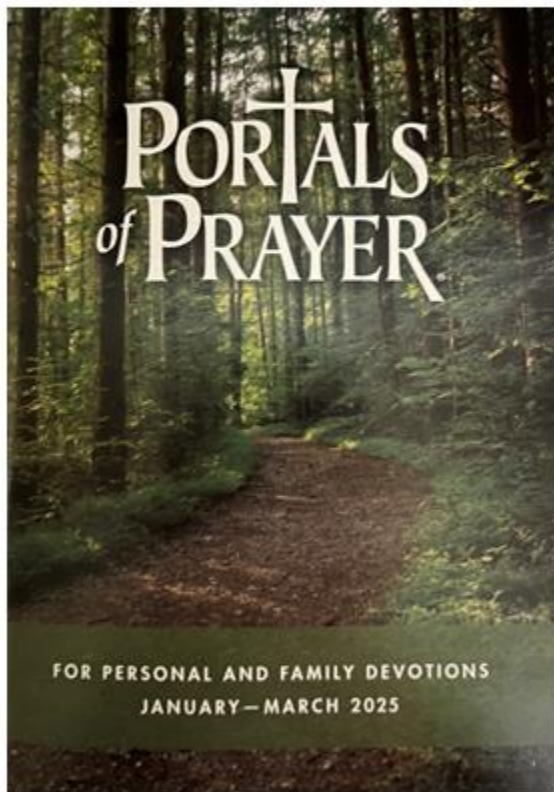
**We gather at 9:45 and begin the lesson at 10:00 and end at 11:00.**

**All women are welcome to join us as we study these 3 books. If you have any questions, contact Gretchen Schmalz or Jan Schlak.**

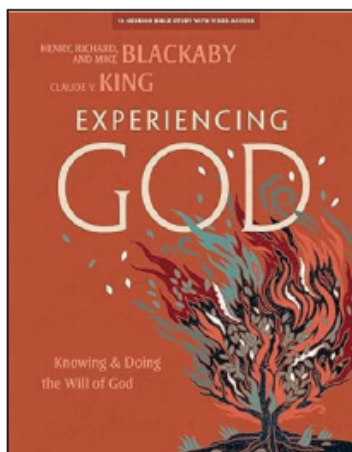




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TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.



Be refreshed daily in God's living



# Tuesday Night Bible Study Winter 2025

- Time:** 6:30 p.m. gather, visit, share prayer requests  
[Video rolls at 7 p.m.]
- Place:** *Via ZOOM!*
- Date:** First session is Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
(proposed schedule below)
- Cost:** Order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
directly from [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## Experiencing God

By Henry T. Blackaby, Richard Blackaby, Mike Blackaby and Claude V. King

God is inviting you into an intimate love relationship through which He reveals to you His will, His ways, and His work. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Carefully listening to His voice will anchor you in His plan and set you free to live it with boldness and freedom. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

### Proposed Schedule:

#### Features:

- Biblically-rooted and gospel-centered content
- Interactive teaching videos  
(approximately 15-20 minutes per session)
- 12 group sessions (12 weeks of homework, optional)

#### Benefits:

- Stay connected with your sisters in Christ with weekly fellowship, encouragement and prayer from the comfort and convenience of your own home!

Date	Lesson #
Jan. 7, 2025	1
Jan. 14th	2
Jan. 21st	Break-Church Council Meeting
Jan. 28th	3
Feb. 4th	4
Feb. 11th	5
Feb. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Feb. 25th	6
Mar. 4th	7
Mar. 11th	8
Mar. 18th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Mar. 25th	9
Apr. 1st	10
Apr. 8th	11
Apr. 15th	Break-Church Council Meeting
Apr. 22nd	12-Final Session
Apr. 29th	Dinner/Fellowship

Please RSVP your attendance to Anita Werner by December 31st ([awerner@elp.rr.com](mailto:awerner@elp.rr.com))

**Please visit [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and  
order *Experiencing God* (with video access)  
prior to our first session.**

## **This Week @ Ascension**

### **Sunday (February 23)**

9:00 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Study  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



### **Monday (February 24)** **Church Office Closed**

### **Tuesday (February 25)**

6:30 PM Ladies Zoom Bible Class  
6:45 PM Boy Scouts (FH)  
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study (L)

### **Wednesday (February 26)**

9:00 AM Preschool Chapel  
11:00 AM Sit and Sew (FH)

### **Thursday (February 27)**

9:45 AM Women's Bible Study (FH)  
6:00 PM Choir Practice

### **Friday (February 28)**

12:00 PM-2:30PM Preschool Extended Care (FH)

### **Saturday (March 1)**

