

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

February 23, 2025

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Mark Selbo

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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### All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship.

If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus.

His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS**

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may  
delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

## **SONG: All Are Welcome, #641**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal.*

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live;  
A place where saints and children tell, how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions; Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true;  
Where all God's children dare to seek, to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness, and a symbol of God's grace:  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found, in water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space:  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach, beyond the wood and stone;  
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger, bear the image of God's face;  
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard,  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed, as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome! All are welcome! All are welcome in this place.

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

## **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.

**Amen.**

## **READING – Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

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. 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. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.’ 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*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
**for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the Lord and do good;  
**live in the land and enjoy security.**

Take delight in the Lord,  
**and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the Lord;  
**trust in him, and he will act.**

He will make your vindication shine like the light  
**and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
**do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.**

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.  
**Do not fret – it leads only to evil.**

For the wicked shall be cut off,  
**but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
**though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

But the meek shall inherit the land  
**and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.**

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;  
**he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

The Lord helps them and rescues them;  
**he rescues them from the wicked and saves them  
because they take refuge in him.**

## **READING – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 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. But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

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.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

– *Please stand as you are able* –

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

Halle, halle, halle – Iujah. Halle, halle, halle – Iujah.  
Halle, halle, halle – Iujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

## **THE GOSPEL – Luke 6:27-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. 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. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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 our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

## **SERMON – “Love Your Enemies”**

## **SONG: Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive, #605**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

“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.

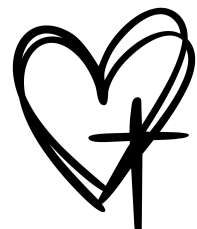
## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, 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,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *(on separate sheet)*

*God of grace... Receive our prayer.*

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*

*– Please share a greeting or sign of peace –*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**





## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT**

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to receive Communion or you may request a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

**Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.**

**Single-serving kits are available in the first tray.** Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

**If you would like Traditional Communion,** select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to the Pastor, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. Welcome!

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SONG: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, #815**

*Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord, Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord, Jesus.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord, Jesus.

## **DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you for taking part in the Congregation Meeting.** Notes are available on the information table in the Fellowship Hall or on the website ([ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org)).
- **Thank you, Kathy** – We especially lift up PreSchool Director Kathy Davis, who has announced her upcoming retirement.
- **Giving Statements emailed on January 19** – Reach out to [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) if you did not receive or need assistance.
- **Ash Wednesday Worship** – March 5 at 7 p.m.
- **Lenten Soup Supper** – Wed, March 26 TBD; See Penni to help ([penry4@gmail.com](mailto:penry4@gmail.com))
- **PreSchool Birthday Bash** – Saturday, April 26; Please start collecting raffle items.
- **Supporting the Homeless** – Thank you to all who sent items for the camp near Pastor Padraig's home in Chicago. There was so much we must send a second load. Thank you!
- **Caring Hands** – 9a to Noon on the following Saturdays: March 15, April 12, May 17, June 21, September 20, October 18, November 15. Making prayer shawls, comfort blankets, hats/mittens. ([CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com](mailto:CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com))
- **Donating to Wildfire Victims** – ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the oldest, most effective and most respected organizations for getting money where it can be put to good use. Donate at [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org). There is also a link on our website under "WORK."
- **Scouting!** – Boys and girls ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Thanks for supporting our Pack/Troop 273!
- **PreSchool Prayers** – Keep the children, families and staff of our PreSchool in prayer.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Call for toilet paper! And anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. ([CoolMinistries.org](http://CoolMinistries.org))
- **Prayer concerns?** Consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Email [ChristLutheranVH@aol.com](mailto:ChristLutheranVH@aol.com) with your request. Would you join with us in prayer? Send an email to be included on the prayer mailing list. The task is simple-but-powerful – when time permits, open the email and read/pray with us.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support our service, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, [ChristLutheranVH.org](http://ChristLutheranVH.org). Thank you!