

# Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

*Greetings and Welcome*

*Prelude by Benen Dichsen – “Scheherazade,” by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov*

## GATHERING

*\*Call to Worship and Confession*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence for confession*

P: Have mercy, O God,

**C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

P: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God’s compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God’s love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through † Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

**C: Blessed be God forever.**

*\*Gathering Song – “Gather Us In” ELW 532*

*(organ)*

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

- 2 **We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.**
- 3 **Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**
- 4 **Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*\*Greeting and Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray ... Forgiving God,

**C: Too often we take your forgiveness for granted. Too often we cling to our sin,  
believing that it is our right to harbor resentments and hatred. Be merciful to**

**us, and show us the depth of healing that is offered when you forgive, for the sake of the one who recognized total surrender to forgiveness and offered it willingly, Jesus Christ our healer. Amen.**

*\*Sharing Christ's Peace*

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

**C: And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

*Children's Sermon*

## WORD

*\*Gospel Reading:* Luke 7:36-50

Reader: Angela Spray

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup>And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup>She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup>Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' <sup>40</sup>Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.' <sup>41</sup>'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?' <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' <sup>44</sup>Then turning towards the woman, he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven,

loves little.’ <sup>48</sup>Then he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ <sup>49</sup>But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ <sup>50</sup>And he said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Hymn of Praise* – “Let Forgiveness Flow” (piano)

**Father, here I am again, in need of mercy, hurt from sin,  
So by the blood of Jesus’ love, let forgiveness flow.**

**In my heart and in my mind, in word and deed I’ve been so blind,  
So by the blood of Jesus’ love, let forgiveness flow.**

**To me, from me, so my heart will know; fully and sweetly, let forgiveness flow.**

*Sermon:* "Forgiven at Jesus' Feet"

*Song of the Day* – “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” ELW 843 *(organ)*

- 1 **Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
- 2 **Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3 **Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

*\*The 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 to the dead. 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.**

*\*Prayers*

*Stewardship Time*

Mission Moment – Pastor Adam  
“Fair Trade”

*–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–*

*\*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.


**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*\*Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution*

*\*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**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Communion Songs*

“Rise, Shine, You People!” ELW 665 (*organ*)

- 1 **Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.**
- 2 **See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.**
- 3 **Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory.**
- 4 **Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.**

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” ELW 609 (*organ*)

- 1 **Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,  
died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.**
- 2 **Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above,  
deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity.  
Love that found me—wondrous thought—found me when I sought him not.**

- 3 **Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart,  
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.**
- 4 **Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
all my wants to him are known, all my sorrows are his own.  
He sustains the hidden life safe with him from earthly strife.**
- 5 **O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your word!  
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;  
grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.**

*\*Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: **Amen.**

*\*Closing Prayer*

## SENDING

*\*Benediction*

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds  
in † Christ Jesus.  
C: **Amen.**

*\*Sending Song – “Your Grace Is Enough”* *(piano)*

1. **Great is your faithfulness, O God of Jacob;  
you wrestle with the sinner’s restless heart.**

**You lead me by still waters into mercy where nothing can keep us apart.**

*Refrain: So remember your people, remember your children,  
remember your promise, O God.*

*For your grace is enough, your grace is enough,  
your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.*

2. **Great is your love and justice, God of Jacob; you use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of heaven’s vict’ry, and all your people sing along.**

*Refrain twice*



*\*Dismissal*

**P:** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

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

**Song Credits**

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**Worship Assistants**

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker  
Greeter: Lynette Hamilton  
Reader: Angela Spray  
Usher: Hallie Mayner  
Pastor: Adam Dichsen  
Music Director: Jean Welch  
Musician: Sandi Watts  
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen  
Financial Assistants: Kelly Hartz & Monica Proefrock  
Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger  
Coffee Host: *Breakfast & Listening Session in Great Room*



**Singers:**

Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street
Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street	Carol VanderKloot

**Church Council Members:**

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

**What’s Coming Up at Faith?**

Sunday, February 23, 9:30am: Worship **Friends from Faith**  
10:30am: Listening Session and Breakfast in the Great Room  
5:30pm: Faith Inkubators

Saturday, March 1, 8:00am: Cooking for  
9:00am: Men’s Breakfast

Sunday, March 2, 9:30am: Worship  
11:00am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm: Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 6, 3:00pm: Discipleship Core Team Meeting  
4:30pm: Administration Core Team Meeting  
6:00pm: Outreach Core Team Meeting

## **News Updates**

### **Faith's Little Flock**

This month, Faith's Little Flock will enjoy activities related to healing including, why we rest on the Sabbath, Jesus raising the widow's son, exploring who Jesus is, and the healing power of forgiveness. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7. We also welcome Big Kid Helpers (ages 8 and up) to help the little ones with the more difficult parts of the crafts, and our older adults to read the scripture story to the children. Contact Melissa Street if you would like to take a turn reading the story to the children. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered so far!

The children all return to the sanctuary for the communion blessing. Word-finds, crossword puzzles, and other activity sheets are available in the gathering area for the older children (and adults) to help reinforce the message of the day. We look forward to seeing all of the children in February!

**Contribution Envelopes for 2025** are available in the gathering area.

### **Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke**

Following worship, join Pastor Adam for a Bible study on Luke in the Justice Room. We will discuss the reading of the day, connect it to the gospel context, and reflect on its significance for us today.

### **Listening Session**

The Council invites you to a meal and listening session following worship **today**. We will enjoy some good food and fellowship, then, at our tables, discuss some questions about our ministry, what ways we can help meet the needs of our congregation and community, and how we can involve all generations. Specific questions have been emailed out or are available to pick up on the counter by the coat closet. We're welcoming any and all helpers to clean up after the meal.

## **Meal Signup for Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators**

We are looking for volunteers to provide meals when our children and youth meet on Sunday evenings. The meal is served from 5:30-6:00pm at the end of Bible Boot Camp and beginning of our youth night. Plates and utensils are available in the kitchen, and you are welcome to cook or heat the meal there as well. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet located on the counter by the coat closet. Thank You!

## **Faith Inkubators**

Our Faith Inkubators youth nights incorporate all the learning of confirmation, but also some games and activities so that it is open for some upper-elementary-aged kids that are up for the challenge and our high school youth to still be involved. **Future events are scheduled for Sundays, from 5:30-7:30.** The next date is **tonight!**

## **Bible Boot Camp**

Last Fall, we introduced Bible Boot Camp, a new program for elementary-school-aged children. Pastor Adam warms them up with singing, dancing, and some retelling of Bible stories from recent worship services. Patty Nelson and Shelley McDaniel lead them in some creative play and crafts, and then we all join with parents and older youth for a meal. **Our next events will be held on Sundays, March 9 and 16, and April 6 and 13, from 4:30-6:00.** Spread the word and bring a friend!

## **Ash Wednesday Service – March 5, 7:00pm**

Lent is just around the corner! Join us for our traditional service of the imposition of ashes. The practice reminds us that we are dust and to dust we shall return... but also proclaims that we find life in the cross of Christ. Lenten Wednesday night meals and services begin on March 12.

## **End-of-Year Giving**

For many years, Faith has designated money to be given to a variety of partners in ministry. This year, at our Annual Meeting, we approved \$20,000 to be shared. Below is a list of last year's recipients. **If you have a recommendation of a 501(c)3 recipient for this year, tell Patty Nelson ([pattynelson1938@gmail.com](mailto:pattynelson1938@gmail.com)) by the end of February.**

2024 Recipients: Hearts United in God's Service (HUGS), International Health and Development Network (IDHN), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Western IL Youth Camp, YMCA, Faith Scholarship Fund, Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, Prairie Council on Aging, New Directions, St. Vincent DePaul, Jacksonville Food Center, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Faith mortgage.

### **An Evening with Nadia Bolz-Weber**

Lutheran pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber will be in St. Louis on Friday, March 7. A few people from Faith are planning to go and would like to invite others to join them. Here's how Pastor Nadia describes the evening: *"I want to gather with you, laugh with you, and sing with you. I want to be revived from despair and from self-righteousness. I want us to remind each other of what's most important and least popular right now. Namely: humility, curiosity, mercy, and hope - the things Jesus of Nazareth yammered on about and that were as difficult to embrace then as they are now. In other words, I do not want to be afraid, and I do not want to be alone. So let's gather in the flesh and revive our weary hearts."*

The event begins at 7:00pm. Carpooling is available. If you're interested in going or learning more, please contact Monica Proefrock at 217-737-0475. **Tickets will be reserved on February 23<sup>rd</sup>** so don't delay!

### **Jacksonville Food Center (Souper) Bowl Food Drive**

Let's continue to help the Jacksonville Area Food Center tackle hunger! Beginning Super Bowl Sunday and through the month of February, we will be collecting food items like soups, peanut butter and jelly, and Chef Boyardee. You can put your donations by the table under the working cross in the gathering area. Thank You!

*Lillian Korous & Pat Glyshaw*

### **Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea**

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$6.50** cashews). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with *"coffee"* designated in the memo area.

### **Sign-Up Sheets**

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*