

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



*Love
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27

February 23, 2025 | 9:00 a.m.

*Kviteseid Lutheran Church
308 North Third Street
Milan, Minnesota*

RDER OF SERVICE

Welcome to Kviteseid Lutheran Church... Friends and friends-to-be, we welcome you to this time of worship, faith education and Christian fellowship. May the Word of God nourish you for your life and ministry in the days to come.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW #656

INTRODUCTION FOR THE DAY

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God’s glory revealed in Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Jesus teaches us, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
But who are the others?

C Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.

P Jesus teaches us, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” But what is mercy?

C To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.

P Jesus teaches us, “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” But how do we forgive?

**C By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves
as people in need of compassion.**

P Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another
with mercy and compassion.

C Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

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

2 Corinthians 13:13

C And also with you.

DIALOG

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,
C and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

John 1

SCRIPTURE SONG “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!” (vs. 1, 4 & 6) ELW #835

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

LESSON: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

L ¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

C ²**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

L ³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

C ⁴**Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

L ⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

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

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

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

L ⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD
shall possess the land.

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

L ¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

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

L ⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them
from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

ELW #605

(Alt. tune: ELW #632)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C **We believe in him and are marked with the seal
of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 1:13-14

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **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 Pilot,
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.**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Jude 20

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jude 21

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C **Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Trusting in God's kindness and love, let us confess our sin.

C **Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways
or trusted your promises.**

**We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are
kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive.**

Forgive us, Lord.

Fill our hearts with your selfless love.

Change our lives by your matchless grace.

These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.

P Children of the Most High God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure —
spilling out and running over. God forgives your sins; know that you are
pardoned and be at peace to love the Lord and serve the world.

Luke 6:35–39

C **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace.

2 Corinthians 13:11

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

JINGLE OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (vs. 1-2) ELW #686

OFFERING PRAYER

C **Bless these gifts, that we have received from your bounty, and send them forth to those in need, whether they be friend or foe. For all are your beloved children and our sisters and brothers. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

****CHARGE**

P Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
 do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Luke 6:37-38

C **Forgive, and you will be forgiven;
 give, and it will be given to you.**

P For God is kind to all and full of mercy.

C **Filled with the life-giving spirit of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
 we bear the image of the risen one and take delight in the abundance
 of what we have already received.**

BLESSING

P Go from this place ready to listen. Listen for the opportunities to extend mercy. Notice the moments to forgive instead of condemn. Watch for the person who needs help. For the blessing of the Triune God goes with you, pouring out mercy and compassion on you so that you may share mercy and compassion with everyone you meet.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW #608

DISMISSAL

P Go into the world and proclaim the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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