

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**  
**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – 8:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



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.

- ✝ Officiant & Preacher – Pastor Brian Griswold
- ✝ Worship Leader – Earl Hem

**WORSHIP**

**HYMN: Lord, I lift Your Name**

Lord, I lift your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life,  
I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay,  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord I lift your name on high.

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**HYMN: Everything is in Your Hands**

**Chorus**

My past and my present and things yet to come  
My days are in your hands each and everyone  
I know you can handle any challenge that I face  
You promised you'd be there every step that I take

**Chorus**

There is nothing to big that you aren't bigger  
Remind us again Lord that you are in control  
We know you can handle any challenge that we face  
You promised you'd be there every step that we take.

**Chorus**

**Chorus:**

Everything is in your hands  
Everything is in your hands  
Everything is in your hands oh God

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**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.**

## GOD'S HOLY WORD

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



### Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

<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.**



## HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 6:27 - 38; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse 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 begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them 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 hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But 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 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### SERMON – Pastor Brian Griswold

#### OFFERING

##### **OFFERING HYMN: Be Thou My Vision**

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| 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;<br>naught be all else to me, save that thou art:<br>thou my best thought both by day and by night,<br>waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.    | 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,<br>thou mine inheritance, now and always:<br>thou and thou only, the first in my heart,<br>great God of heaven, my treasure thou art. |
| 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;<br>I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.<br>Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,<br>raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r. | 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,<br>may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!<br>Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still<br>be my vision, O Ruler of all.             |

#### OFFERING PRAYER

Lord God, your compassion is unlimited, all that we have is yours. Receive these gifts from your bounty and grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first your kingdom on earth as in heave, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† We recognize those joining us via FaceBook Live, and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud; with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless all the ministries of caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is our joy and delight at all time and in all places give thanks to you O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

Born a man, Jesus lived among us to reveal your glory and love, That our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light.

And so we remember 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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**



Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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** – The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!**

**COMMUNION HYMN: Just as I Am**

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| 1 Just as I am, without one plea,<br>But that thy blood was shed for me,<br>And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.   | 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,<br>wilt welcome pardon, cleanse, relieve;<br>Because thy promise I believe,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come. |
| 2 Just as I am, though tossed about<br>with many a conflict, Many a doubt,<br>fighting and fears within and without,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come. | 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown,<br>has broken ev'ry barrier down;<br>now to be thine, yea, thine alone<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come        |

**Closing Prayer** - 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, **Amen.**

**Blessing** - The Spirit of the triune God ✝ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: The Trees of the Field**

You shall go out with Joy, and be lead forth with peace.  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.  
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the tress of the field  
Shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
The trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
The trees of the field shall clap their hands,  
As you go out with joy.

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**Dismissal:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

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

**Notes:**

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