

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*"What you sow is not the body
that is be" –1 Cor. 15:37*

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Church of the Lutheran Confession
www.clclutheran.org



7th Sunday after Epiphany – February 23, 2025

A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests! It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord's pure Word and by the psalms and hymns and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States and Canada, as well as the continent of Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All our churches confess that the Bible is the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come and worship with us again.

Today's Order of Worship is "Divine Worship Setting 1," as printed in the liturgy pamphlet distributed by the ushers. The service is based on pages 12-21 in *Worship Supplement 2000* (tan hymnal). Please leave your copy of the liturgy pamphlet in the pew after the service concludes or drop it into the designated box in the foyer so that it may be used in future services. Thank you



Serving Us Today
Organist Jeana Kettner
Ushers Bob Rankin, Mark Hartmeister

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 119:73-80 (pew bible, page 546)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 901, 741 (1-5), 696 (1-5), 696 (6)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Genesis 45:1-8a, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-49
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: Psalm 103

Sermon



Text – Luke 6:27-42

Theme – *"Be Merciful, as Your Father Is Merciful"*

1. Be kind to those who wrong you.
2. Exhibit a giving spirit.
3. Judge with righteous judgment.

The Scripture Lessons, Psalm of the Day, and Sermon Text are printed on the following pages.

Today's Scriptures

First Lesson – Genesis 45:1-8a, 15

Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family

1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. 4 And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God. | 15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 103

Praise the Lord for His Mercy

P Bless the LORD, O my soul:

C **And all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

P Who forgives all your iniquities:

C **Who heals all your diseases.**

P Who redeems your life from destruction:

C **Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.**

P The LORD is merciful and gracious:

C **Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.**

P He has not dealt with us according to our sins:
C **Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**
P For as the heavens are high above the earth:
C **So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;**
P As far as the east is from the west:
C **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**
P As a father pities his children:
C **So the LORD pities those who fear Him.**
P For He knows our frame:
C **He remembers that we are dust.**
P As for man, his days are like grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes:
C **For the wind passes over it, and it is gone.**
P But the mercy of the LORD:
C **Is from everlasting to everlasting.**

Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-49

Our Resurrection Bodies: Transformed to Be Like the Body of Christ

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. | 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Sermon Text – Luke 6:27-42

Love Your Enemies / Judge Not

27 “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” 39 And He spoke a parable to them: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. 41 And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? 42 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible*, New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., © 1982). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

This Week at St. Paul

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| Today (2/23) | 9:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 10:45 am | Sunday School & Bible Class |
| Sun (3/2) | 9:30 am | Worship Service with Holy Communion |
| | 10:45 am | Sunday School & Bible Class |

Extended Calendar

- Midweek Lenten Service Schedule begins with our Ash Wednesday Service on March 5 at 7:00 pm.
- Annual Front Range Mission Festival Service: Sunday, May 4, 3:00 pm, hosted this year by Prince of Peace Lutheran in Loveland. The guest speaker will be Pastor David Reim of Vernon, British Columbia, Canada

Synod News & Notes

- ▶ **Call News** – Samuel Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has accepted the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland. <> Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN, has accepted the call to Faith Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN, to serve as their pastor along with his current call.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

February 24 – March 1

Mon Matthew 17:1-8 To those who believe on Him, Jesus is revealed as the glorious Son of the heavenly Father. He speaks with Moses and Elijah about the work He is soon to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Tues Romans 14:13-19 Speaking to the strong and weak in faith, Paul urges them not to pass judgment on each other, nor to cause each other to stumble, but to seek peace and build up one another.

Wed Genesis 49:9-12 In blessing his son Judah, Israel likens him to a lion, a strong ruler from whom the Messiah would one day come and bring even richer blessings.

Thurs Amos 8:1-14 The Lord pictures His people Israel as ripe summer fruit, ripe for judgment (vv1-3). In their quest for wealth, they have trampled on the needy (vv4-8). The judgment will be the removal of their true treasure, His Word, which they have despised (vv7-14).

Fri 2 Peter 1:16-21 Peter remembers the glory of Jesus' shining transfiguration and calls our attention to the prophetic word, fulfilled in Christ, who shines in our hearts. This is the gift of God the Holy Spirit!

Sat Matthew 17:9-13 Although Peter, James and John have seen His glory on the mountain, it will be hidden to unbelieving scribes during His walk to the cross for the redemption of all mankind.