



7th Sunday after Epiphany  
February 23, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church  
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor  
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music  
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries  
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator  
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

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.

## **Prelude: Selections from Unity Mass by Norah Duncan**

*Please stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C. Amen.**

P. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.



Merciful God,

**C. you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**

**we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.**

**Show us your lovingkindness.**

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**

**that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P. God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **C. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: Healer of Our Every Ill**

**ELW 612**

### **GREETING**

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

# GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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. **C. Amen**

## 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.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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

The low - ly shall pos - sess the  
land; they will de - light in a - bun - dance of peace.

<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. **R**

<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. **R**

<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 on- | ly to evil.

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land. **R**

<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 pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance 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. **R**

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is

imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> 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.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

***Children’s Message (10:30 a.m.)***

Annette Dittman

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### C. 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.”

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

**Sermon: Hard Answers**

Pastor Nancy Raabe

**HYMN of the DAY: In All Our Grief**

**ELW 615**

**Apostles' Creed**

P. Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

**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 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**

To the petition “God of grace,” please respond, “Hear our prayer.”

**GREETING OF THE PEACE**

P. The peace of Christ be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*



## OFFERING

*The offering is collected at this time by the ushers, who will pass the offering plates. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at 844-613-0815. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.*



## Music at the Offering: The Imprint of Your Face by Margaret Tucker (1936-)

O God, we bear the imprint of your face:  
the colors of our skin are your design,  
and what we have of beauty in our race  
as man or woman, you alone define,  
who stretched a living fabric on our frame  
and gave to each a language and a name.  
Where we are torn and pulled apart by hate  
because our race, our skin is not the same,  
while we are judged unequal by the state

and victims made because we own our name,  
humanity reduced to little worth,  
dishonored is your living face on earth.  
O God, we share the image of the One  
whose flesh and blood are ours, whatever skin;  
in Christ's humanity we find our own,  
and in his family our proper kin:  
Christ is the brother we still crucify,  
his love the language we must learn, or die.

## OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.



## OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **C. Amen.**

## 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 God thanks and praise.**

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



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

P. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C. Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven....**

## Invitation to Communion

P. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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 Hymn: Taste and See

ELW 493

*Please stand.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A. 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 love and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **C. Amen.**

**Rice Bowl:** Peggy Schmidt (8:00am) and Jean Shaffer (10:30am)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand.*

## BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C. Amen.**



**SENDING HYMN: O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**

**ELW 559**

## DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: Allegro from Sonata in G Major**

**by Marianne von Martinez  
(1744-1812)**

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## Serving today - Thank you!!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe  
Minister of Music: Susanna Faust  
Lector: 8:00, D. Kunkel; 10:30, C. MacDonald  
Ushers: 8:00, P. Schmidt & D. Kunkel;  
10:30, K. Deussing & L. Boyer  
Communion Asst: 8:00, B. Schmidt;  
10:30, C. MacDonald  
Altar Guild: 8:00, J. Detweiler;  
10:30, M. J. Moyer & B. Hess  
Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, Usher  
Coffee Hour: Don Capanear  
Council Offering & Lockup: 8:00, D. Kunkel;  
10:30, T. Salter  
Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

## NEXT WEEK

### Exodus 34:29-35

Coming down from Mount Sinai,  
Moses' face shone

### Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord;  
worship upon God's holy hill

### 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

With unveiled faces we see the  
Lord's glory as we are transformed

### Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Jesus is transfigured on the  
mountain

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee, **COFFEE HOUR** is served in the **Narthex**. Please stay for hot drinks, home-baked snacks, and conversation!



**Pastoral Care** If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.

**Save Paper! Early access!** Receive your Parish News by email! Add your address to the list by contacting Lynn in the office.



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