

THE MISSION OF THIS CONGREGATION IS TO:

PRAISE God

PROCLAIM the message of Jesus Christ
REACH OUT with this message to people of
all backgrounds and cultures
CREATE A COMMUNITY of Christian
support, love, and forgiveness.

Williams Bay Lutheran Church Worship February 23, 2025 at 9:30 am Service of the Word and Holy Communion

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, 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 resist your call to oppose injustice; 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.

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.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Gather Us In"

ELW 532

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

Let us pray: 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.**

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ 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. ⁴Then 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. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ 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. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 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. ⁹Hurry 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. 10 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. ¹¹ 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." 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

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

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

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

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

⁴Take delight | in the LORD, who shall give you your | heart's desire.

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

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

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

⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.

⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

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

¹¹But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land; they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

³⁹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from $^{\mid}$ you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in $^{\mid}$ time of trouble.

 40 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.

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 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 physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰ 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. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

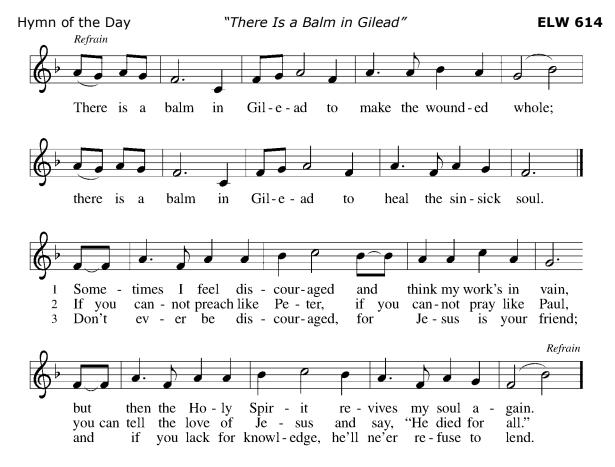
[Jesus said:] ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. *continued next page*

Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ 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, O Christ

Sermon Pastor Tom

Silence for Reflection



Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Apostles' Creed: 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 of Intercession

Petitions conclude with: God of grace, hear our prayer.

Peace The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering - Please be seated as we pass the offering plates.



Offering Prayer

Words of Institution for Holy Communion

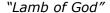
Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

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.

All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.

Hymns during Communion:





- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

ELW 492



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love,

we re-joice in your pres-ence.



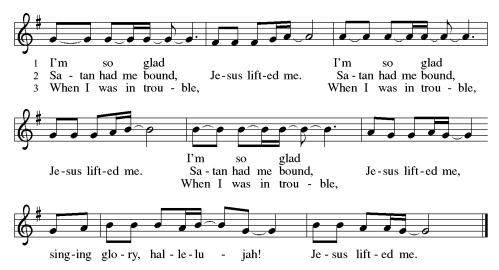
- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up on the Lord, be ra diant, nev er turn a way. 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor ship, bless the ho ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth-ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

"I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

ELW 860



Text: African American spiritual Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

Table Blessing

SENDING

Sending Prayer and Blessing



- 1 What a friend we have in Je sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri als and temp ta tions? Is there trou-ble an y where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav-y lad en, cum bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer! We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer. Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share? Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer! Je - sus knows our ev-'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer. In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

Dismissal