

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025

Worship Focus

Love Your Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good



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Order of Service: SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Order of Service

The Service: Setting Four

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

733 - Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
2 How can your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
the un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
the truth we dim - ly knew: how small are oth - ers'
and bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, how great our debt to you!
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord. **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Spoken responsively

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



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



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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his

peo - ple on earth. 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, re - ceive our prayer.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on
 earth. 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.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3–15

Joseph forgiving his brothers after they sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

GENESIS 45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

¹²“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 607 - Ten Thousand Reasons

Worship Team sings. Congregation may join as comfortable.



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



- 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
- 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
- 3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good-ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
ten thou-sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
ten thou-sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:14–21

The Roman empire used force and aggression. Paul encouraged believers to use grace, forgiveness, and humility.

ROMANS 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand for the reading of the Gospel

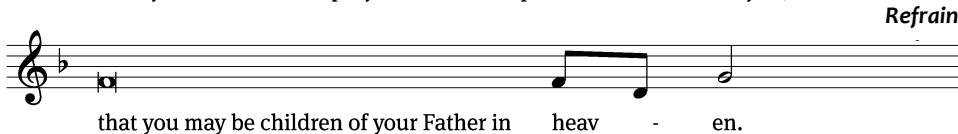
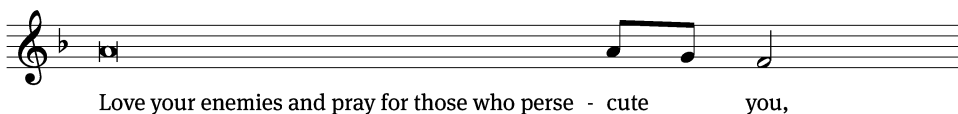
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After a brief introduction, the cong. sings the refrain. The cantor sings the tone. The cong. repeats the refrain.

Refrain



Tone



GOSPEL READING

LUKE 6:27–38

Jesus calls us to disregard what people deserve and show the same grace that God has shown to us.

LUKE 6:27²⁷But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be 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. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

729 - Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
 2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
 3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
 sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
 sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
 free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
 hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
 sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
 sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
 will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
 crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

✠ **Sermon** ✠

Genesis 45:3-8a, 15

God Works Behind the Scenes

Stand

✠ **Confession of Faith** ✠

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of these ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

Gracious God, forgiving Father, you do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. Lord, you are compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

Move us to imitate your love that we conquer our fear of others, love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us. Lord, you are compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

As you empower us with your love, equip us also with your gospel, that our deeds of kindness may give witness to the hope we have and make opportunities for us to share the Savior. Lord, you are compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

In your love, watch over those who selflessly give themselves and their time to protect, serve and help those in need: police, fire and first responders. Uphold and protect them as they uphold and protect us. Lord, you are compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

You are the Father of compassion and God of all comfort. Comfort us in our troubles so that we can comfort others with the comfort we have received from you. We pray especially for all who suffer pain, illness or distress [*especially...*]. Give them health and recovery according to your gracious will. Lord, you are compassionate and gracious, **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

O God, out of your great love for this world you reconciled earth to heaven through your only Son. By the darkness of our sins we often fail to love our neighbors. Let your light shine in our souls and fill us with your own love, that we embrace our friends in you and our enemies for your sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

726 - Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, faint - ing not when



hearts in one; love in Christ is true and giv - ing,
mil - i - ty, gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



may his will in us be done.
reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
shall en - dure un - til life's end.

Stand

CLOSING COLLECT and LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (a blessing)

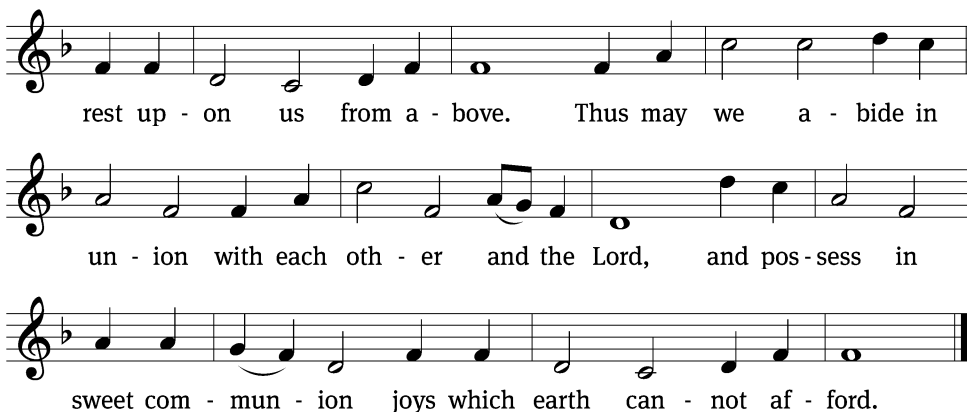
928 - May the Grace of Christ Our Savior



May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's



bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor



rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bid in
un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in
sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Hymns

Hymn 733 - Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Tune: A Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davisson

Scripture references: Lk 11:4; Eph 4:31,32; Mt 18:21-35

Text: © 1969 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: OneLicense no.

714955

Tune: Public domain

607 - Ten Thousand Reasons - in place of the psalm

Text: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974

Tune: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974

Scripture references: Ps 103; Ps 65:8; Ex 34:6; Ps 86:12

Text and tune: © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / Worship

Together Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com.

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729 - Son of God, Eternal Savior

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.

Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman

Scripture references: Jn 13:34,35; 1 Jn 3:16-18; 1 Pe 1:20-23; Jn 17:20,21

Text and tune: Public domain

726 - Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

Scripture references: 1 Co 13; Col 3:12-14

Text and tune: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House.

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928 - May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Scripture references: 2 Co 13:14; Eph 4:3-6

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

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Notes: Response is from Psalm 103:8.

Closing collect is Mozarabic, freely modified from *Prayers Ancient and Modern* by Mary Wilder Tileston, Boston, Little Brown, 1914, p. 269 #1.

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