

The 7th Sunday After Epiphany



Service of the Word
February 23, 2025

North Riverdale Evangelical Lutheran Church
45 Kurtz Avenue
Dayton, OH 45405

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Welcome to North Riverdale Lutheran Church!

We are honored by your presence with us this morning. A few notes about our service:

- *Our worship service is hybrid – we also have folks participating via Facebook Live.*
- *Please sign the red “Welcome Pad” found in your pew.*
- *We invite you to take an active part in our worship service:*
 - ** marks the places to stand in body or in spirit.*
 - *The Congregation’s spoken parts are **printed in bold print**.*
 - *Hymns and songs are found in the green Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW), the blue With One Voice hymnal (WOV), or the Praise and Worship Songbook (PWS) – all in the pew rack in front of you or at the end of your pew.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*** 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.

***OPENING HYMN – *Holy, Holy, Holy* (LBW 165)**

***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

***KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

***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.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

The First Lesson is from the 45th chapter of Genesis.

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.

⁴ 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.

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. ⁹ 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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

- ¹ Do not fret yourself because of 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 feed on its riches.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
and he shall give you your heart’s desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD and put your ^l trust in him,
and he will bring it to pass.
- ⁶ **He will make your righteousness as clear as the light
and your just dealing as the noonday.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD
and wait patiently for him.

**⁸ Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

⁹ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**¹⁰ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.**

¹¹ In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**¹² But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

⁴¹ But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**⁴² The LORD will help them and rescue them;
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because
they seek refuge in him.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

The Second Lesson is from the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

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. ⁴⁵ Thus 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. ⁴⁷ The 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th chapter.

Glo - ry 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. 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.



GOSPEL MESSAGE: Countercultural Love (From *Sundays & Seasons.*)

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive* (LBW 307)**

ANNOUNCEMENT and JOYS & CONCERNS

***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Together we affirm our faith.

We believe in God, and we are the people of God! We believe in the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God's love.

We believe that God is revealed to us through the human life of Jesus, from whose death comes new life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who moves among God's people and invites the world into God's reign.

We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the reign of God upon the earth is possible.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

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. Bless the work of the Dayton Mediation Center as they work to resolve thousands of disputes between neighbors, tenants, landlords, and others each year. 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. We pray for the woman who are helped at the Oasis House as we collect bras to help them. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care, especially those appearing on our list of Joys and Concerns: _____ . God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. Bless Fresh Expressions like Bible at the Biltmore, Messy Church, and Saints, Sinners & Sandwiches dinner church. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before. 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 SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

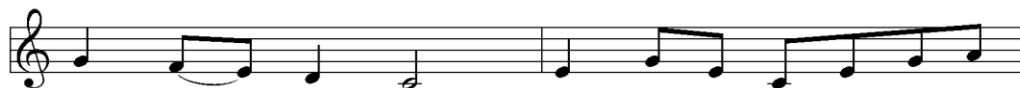
Let us take a moment to share the peace of Christ with those seated near you. After that, please be seated for the offering.

OFFERING and CHOIR ANTHEM

*OFFERTORY (LBW P. 56)



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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** *(spoken)*

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and the light,

God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN – *Be Thou My Vision* (WOV 776)**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leader	Tim Roberts
Musician	Dana Peters
Greeters	Ron and Donna Marsh
Head Usher	Joe Hasenjager
Usher	Jim Martinson
Lay Reader	Susan Dyer
Sound Board	Jim Bannan
Live Stream	Chris Mulcahy
Money Counters	Andrea & Mark McGriff
Altar Guild	Karen Burks and Christ Mulcahy
Flowers	Romona Carver in memory of family members who have passed

TODAY AT NRLC

10:30 AM – Worship

11:45 AM – Church Council meeting

COMING UP AT NRLC

Tuesday, Feb. 24 @ 5:30 PM – Book Study live and on Zoom.

Thursday, Feb 27 @ 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour

Thursdays @ 6:30 PM – Choir Practice

Credits One License A-742161

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies SB171834

Sundays and Seasons Year C, 2024

*Statement of Faith – adapted from Ruth Duck, *Flames of the Spirit*, 1985*

GATHERING SONG *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* (LBW 383)

1 Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.

2 Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
his word of hope proclaim.

3 Rise up, O saints of God!
His kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.

4 Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.

5 Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
rise up, O saints of God!

HYMN OF THE DAY *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive* (LBW 307)

1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

2 How can your pardon reach and bless

the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.

CLOSING SONG *Be Thou My Vision* (WOV 776)

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.