

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #608 — *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace, hear our prayer.

THE OFFERING

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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 liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #656 — *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross † may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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 loving
kindness. 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.**

HYMN #835 — *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

[VERSES 1-4]

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.**

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 READING — *Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

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. 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. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.’ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that, his brothers talked with him.

SECOND READING — *1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50*

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical

body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 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. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL — *Luke 6:27-38*

[Jesus said:] “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you, and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON