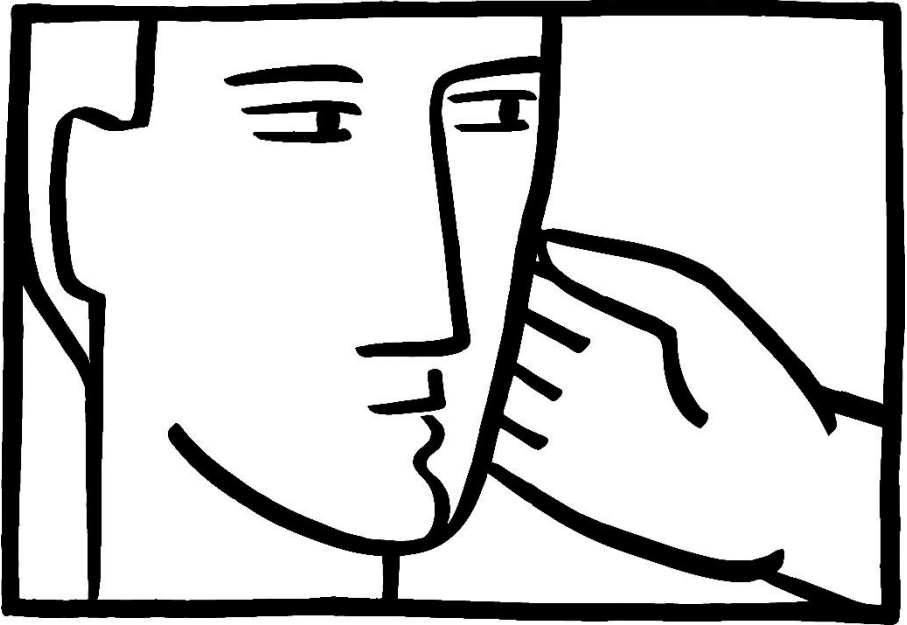


Welcome to  
**WEST CLERMONT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
*February 23, 2025*



**Worship 9:30am**  
**Pastor Micheal Erickson**

West Clermont Lutheran Church  
Address: PO Box 327  
Phone: 563-423-7170

Email: [wclc@acegroup.cc](mailto:wclc@acegroup.cc)

Website: [westclermontlutheranchurch.com](http://westclermontlutheranchurch.com)

**Facebook Live @ West Clermont**  
<https://www.facebook.com/100011482533370>

# 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

## INTRODUCTION

*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

### PRELUDE

### 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.**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WCLC MISSION STATEMENT:** *As children of God, called to love God and one another, we proclaim the Word of God through study, prayer, worship, and discipleship. We serve those in need within our congregation, our community, and our world as an expression of God's love for us. LOVE, PROCLAIM, SERVE!*

**GATHERING MUSIC:** "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" ELW 656

## 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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 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.**

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.**

**KYRIE**

ELW pg. 120

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *"This is the feast..* ELW pg. 122

**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.**

**NOISY CAN OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"Stories on Stories"* by Christine D'Clario  
CCLI #7196398 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aibG8QqW9fo>

**MEAL**

**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 our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW pg. 130**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## **COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: 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.**

## **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.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm: 37:1-11, 39-40 (Responsively)**

- <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.**
- <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.**
- <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 only to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- <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 possess the land;  
they will delight in abundance 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.

**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.

R: *The Word of the Lord.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW pg. 124**

**Gospel: Luke 6:27-38**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **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.**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**Pastor Mike Erickson**

**\*\*Sunday school youth and teachers are dismissed to class.\*\***

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Mike Erickson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “O, Praise The Gracious Power” ELW 651**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from**

**heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living**



**and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
**the Lord, the giver of life,**  
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**  
**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and**  
**glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**  
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**  
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of**  
**sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the**  
**life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **INTERCESSIONS**

**P:** God of grace,                      **C:** Hear our prayer.

### **WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER:**

**P:** 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.

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C:** Amen.

**SENDING MUSIC:** *“Now Thank We All Our God”* ELW 840

#### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Love! Proclaim! Serve!

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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### Prayer List

**Requested:** Karen Kohls, Jeanette (Davisson) Cain, Don Erickson, Jake Noggle, Karen Guyer, Ardell Fortune, Julie Albertson, Larry Kohls, Sarah Updegraff-Murray, Eric Clubb, Bill and Cindy Thias, JoAnn Bishop.

**Assisted Living, Nursing Homes & Shut-Ins:** Betty Erickson, Bud Siebrecht, Karen Follett, Judy Nelson, Madonna Stumme, Doris Guyer, Evelyn Tague.

**In the Military:** Jeff Kleppe, Nathan Guyer, Kennedy White.



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Tues. 2/25	9am	Quilting
Wed. 2/26	2:30pm	Confirmation
	2-4pm	Senior Game Day
Thurs. 2/27	6:30pm	Clermont Historical Society
Sat. 3/1	11am	<i>Helgerson Baptism</i>
Sun. 3/2	9:30am	Worship Service
		<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30am	Fellowship

### Sunday, February 16, 2025

Loose: \$15.00


Regular: \$2,810.00

**Total General Fund: \$2,925.72**

Memorials: \$86.72 (IMO Lois Miller: \$20 / IMO Millard Nelson: \$50)

Scholarship Memorial IMO of Millard Nelson: \$16.72



 **Noisy Can Offering** for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter will go to JoAnn Bishop to help with expenses incurred during this time of illness.



**Direct Deposit Offering** is available for your weekly/monthly offering. Simply contact the office for account and routing information. It's fast and easy!



**Fun for Seniors** Senior Game Day is this Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. Please come for fellowship, snacks, cards, games, and FUN! Bring a friend!



**2025 Summer Camp Program Guides** are now available in the entryway downstairs. Early bird registration deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. **West Clermont Camperships are available.** Please contact the church office for the form.



**Open Hands Food Pantry Needs Volunteers** for the following areas; stocking, cleaning, and organizing shelves; assisting on Tuesdays for all or some of the day; pick up food rescue items; hang posters; organize donation drives. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds on occasion. Contact Open Hands @ 563-422-2150 or @ [www.openhandswu@gmail.com](mailto:www.openhandswu@gmail.com).



**Church Pictorial Directories are here!!** If you had your picture taken or submitted a picture, then there is a directory with your name on it. There are extras, so if you were unable to participate, you can still have one. Extras are on a first come, first serve basis.



**4H Omelet Brunch & Silent Auction** is Sun., March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm @ the Fairgrounds Dance Pavilion. Tickets are \$10, 5 & under are free. Serving: pancakes, made-to-order omelets, applesauce, beverage.



**Ash Wednesday Worship** is March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. It will be held at Highland Lutheran Church as part of our ecumenical Lenten Worship. Free will offering Ham & Potato Meal from 5:30-6:45pm.



**Today is Luther League Shoe Day for SOTH!**



**WELCA SOUP TO GO SALE  
IS TODAY!!**

Quarts: \$9.00. Pints: \$6.00.

Fresh Baked Bread: \$5.00.

**Soup Choices**

Cheeseburger, Chicken Gumbo, Chicken Wild Rice, Chili,  
Ham -n- Bean, Potato, Split Pea -n- Ham, & Taco

*So good, you'll want to buy one of each!*



**Youth Clothing Drive**

Luther League and Confirmation students are organizing a clothing drive to donate to Shepherd of the Hills in St. Olaf. They are currently accepting Spring, Summer Clothing, Newborn-Adult sizes for boys/girls/men/women; Shoes, including flip flops, sandals, sneakers and shoes with open toes. When donating, please make sure items are either new or used in good condition (clean; no holes/tears; zippers work; no missing buttons, etc.)

**Sunday, March 2, 2025- *“Warm hearts start with warm feet”***

Bring NEW socks and undergarments to give this Sunday!

**Sunday, March 9, 2025- *“Self-Care Sunday”***

Help us spread hygiene and hope - donate hygiene items this Sunday!

**Sunday, March 16, 2025- *“Clothing Care Sunday”***

Change a life with kindness - donate clothing this Sunday!

Luther League/Confirmation students will volunteer at Shepherd of the Hills the night of March 19 and deliver the items collected from this drive. All items donated are appreciated!