



CROWN OF LIFE | LUTHERAN
CHURCH

February 23rd, 2025
7th Sunday after Epiphany

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A Service of Worship and Praise

-We Gather as God's People to Worship Him-

OPENING HYMN

African-American Heritage Hymnal 233

I Gave My Life for Thee

PLEASE STAND

Minister says: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation says: And also with you.

-Introduction to Worship-

M: God, our Father, each day is a gift of your grace.

C: Your mercies are new every morning.

M: Guide our steps by the light of your word.

C: Shield us from harm and keep us from evil.

M: Better than life is your love.

C: Put joy in our hearts and praise on our lips. Alleluia!

-We Prepare Our Hearts-

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I know that I have been sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Forgive my sins and change my life.

We sing:

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always living in me!

M: Jesus says to His people: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C: Yes, I believe.

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, it is my privilege to declare to you that your sins are forgiven. You are a dear child of God. Let's praise His name.

We sing:

No Other Name But the Name of Jesus

Chorus: No other name, but the name of Jesus
No other name, but the name of the Lord
No other name but the name of Jesus
Is worthy of glory, And worthy of honor
And worthy of power and all praise!

His name is exalted far above the earth;
His name is high above the heavens.
His name is exalted far above the earth;
Give glory and honor and praise unto His name.

Chorus

-We Pray Together-

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over your life.

C: The LORD will watch over my coming and going, both now and forevermore. AMEN.

BE SEATED

-We Listen to God's Word-

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 45:3-15

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.

⁴ Then 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!"

⁵ And 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. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But 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. ⁹ Now 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.

¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I 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. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

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

We Sing:

Thy Word

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid and I think I’ve lost my way
Still, You’re there right beside me
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be with me to the end.

Refrain

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:14-21

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

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do 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. ²⁰ On 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."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 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? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And 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. ³⁵ But 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. 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 and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christian Worship 497

This is My Will

SERMON

How Can We Love Our Enemies?

Romans 12:14-21

PLEASE STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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

BE SEATED

OFFERING

African-American Heritage Hymnal 228

O, How He Loves You and Me

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: AMEN

CLOSING HYMN

Welcome to the Family

<u>Serving at CoL:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Katherine, Elijah	Karis, Elijah
Ushers	Edward, Lee	Keith, Perry
Reader		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Virginia	Ramona
Cleaning		Virginia, Jake
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Service

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget Met
Last Week	\$1,860.00	\$2,710.40	68.6%
February	\$8,032.05	\$11,745.08	68.4%
Qtr-to-Date	\$18,590.07	\$35,235.25	52.8%
Year-to-Date	\$18,590.07	\$140,941.00	13.2%



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*



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