



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Marked with the cross of Christ we are called to love, serve,
and celebrate Christ, our community, and one another.*

www.trinityvictorville.org 16138 Molino Drive, Victorville, CA 92395 760-245-3225

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

9:30 a.m.



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.

Welcome to Worship!

We're so glad you've joined us today.
We hope you are blessed by today's service.

GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + SENDING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

“All Are Welcome”

ELW #641 (verses 1, 3 & 4)

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain*

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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.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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.

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11

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.'"

Holy wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹ Do not be provoked by 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 find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

Please stand.

W&P #6 (verse 1)

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia;
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

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GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory 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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN OF GOD

SERMON

Pastor Tim Mason

HYMN OF THE DAY *Please stand.*

“Canticle of the Turning” ELW #723 (verses 1 & 3)

***My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?***

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

***From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain***

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the
dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion
of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

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. 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. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (especially). 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 (other ministries may be named). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us (especially Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna). May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

A TIME FOR SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

“For the Wholeness of the Earth”

ELW/ACS #1067

***We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?***

***We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it spinning in you?***

***Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?***

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW #473

***Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God.***

Repeat

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

THE COMMUNION MEAL

(Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Please note that Gluten-free wafers are also available — just ask the assistant at the time you commune.)

A note to those visiting with us:

All are welcome at the Lord's table. In this meal Jesus offers his grace, forgiveness, and presence to all. To learn more about the gifts of God's grace given in Baptism and Holy Communion, please speak with the pastor after worship.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Touch That Soothes and Heals"

ELW/ACS #939

***Touch that soothes and heals the hurting,
hands that break a loaf of bread;
steps that walk beside the weary,
bearing burdens in their stead:***

*"See my hands and feet," said Jesus,
love arisen from the grave,*

*"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus,
"live as ones I died to save."*

***Feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
visit ones in need of care,
give the homeless warmth and shelter:
Christ will find a welcome there. Refrain***

***Love and serve without distinction
all earth's people, first and least.
Know within each act of kindness
hope and wholeness are increased. Refrain***

***Hands that beckon little children,
bind a wound, prepare a meal,
feet that rush to share good tidings,
Christ arisen, still reveal.***

*“See my hands and feet,” said Jesus,
love arisen from the grave,
“Be my hands and feet,” said Jesus,
“live as ones I died to save.”*

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

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.

GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + *SENDING*

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

A - men, a - men, a - - - men.

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW# 543 (verses 1 & 3)

***“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”***

***Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.***

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DISMISSAL

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