

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;  
**C: Pray in the Holy Spirit.**  
P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;  
**C: Look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;  
**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new.**

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another... Gracious God,  
**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**C: Amen.**  
P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**C: And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn:** *Freely, Freely* Other Songbook #49

**Prayers of Intercession**

**The Lord’s Prayer**  
**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.**

**Benediction & Threefold Amen**

**Closing Hymn:** *Shine, Jesus, Shine* ELW #671

**Dismissal:** P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!**  
*“If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to become a member, contact any member or the church office.”*

**Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025; 9:30 am** **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**Prelude/Welcome/Announcements**

**Opening Hymn:** *Lord of Light* Dakota Road #14

**Apostolic Greeting**

**Kyrie** (setting 4, p. 147)  
P: In peace, Let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**  
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**  
P: 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.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**  
P: For this holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: Lord, have mercy.**  
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise:** *Glory to God* (setting 4, p. 148)  
P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.  
**C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. 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.

**First Scripture Reading:**                    **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**                    Jason Haak  
*(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.)*

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.

**Second Scripture Reading:**                    **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.)*

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, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the

image of the one 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.

**Gospel Acclamation:**                    *Christ, Be our Light*                    ELW #715 (refrain only)

**Gospel Reading:**                    **Luke 6:27-38**  
*(Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)*  
[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat 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 asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back 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 expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, 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 himself 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.”  
*(Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)*

**Children’s Message**                    Mary Lee

**Sermon**                    Interim Pastor John Dalen

**Hymn of the Day:**                    *Make Me an Instrument*                    Dakota Road

**Response To The Word**  
P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.  
C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**  
P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.  
C: **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.**