



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
7th Sunday in Epiphany
February 23, 2025

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.



**Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info**

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – The new life in Christ we have been given is full of blessings, peace, and joy. But this new life is not without its challenges to be lived out in this world. Today we hear two of the seemingly impossible commands of our Lord: “Love your enemies” and “Judge not.” Left on our own, we think enemies deserve retaliation and words of judgment. But in Christ we have been given a new heart and spirit. It was, after all, while we were yet sinners that Christ died for us. That’s the same self-giving love that we now show to others because we are witnesses to the Lord’s great and abundant mercy for all sinners. Having received such grace and mercy from God for ourselves, we are set free to bring that same grace and mercy to others.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – “The Goodness of God”*sung by Esther*

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Adapted Psalm 37:4; 103:13

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

**As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;
be not envious of wrongdoers!

For they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
 dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Introit

Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b

- C** **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.**
- I** *Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!*
- II** *For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.*
- C** **Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**
- I** *Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*
- II** *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act.*
- C** **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord, make us instruments of Your peace that we share with all other people the gift of Your love and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 45:3–15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸So 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. ⁹Hurry 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 tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

What A Friend We Have In Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus
 All our sins and griefs to bear
 What a privilege to carry
 Everything to God in prayer
 O what peace we often forfeit
 O what needless pain we bear
 All because we do not carry
 Everything to God in prayer

2. Have we trials and temptations
 Is there trouble anywhere
 We should never be discouraged
 Take it to the Lord in prayer
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share
 Jesus knows our every weakness
 Take it to the Lord in prayer

3. Are we weak and heavy laden
 Cumbered with a load of care
 Precious Savior still our refuge
 Take it to the Lord in prayer
 Do thy friends despise forsake thee
 Take it to the Lord in prayer
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee
 Thou wilt find a solace there

4. Blessed Savior Thou hast promised
 Thou wilt all our burdens bear
 May we ever Lord be bringing
 All to Thee in earnest prayer
 Soon in glory bright unclouded
 There will be no need for prayer
 Rapture praise and endless worship
 Will be our sweet portion there

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Verse *Luke 6:36*

Alleluia. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

“Judging, Loving, Showing Mercy and Leading Others Away from Danger”

1. “Judge not...” – words taken and used out of context. That doesn’t mean what most think they mean!
 - These words don’t mean that we are *not* able to or shouldn’t judge between right and wrong.
 - They don’t mean that we are prohibited to discern and judge between good and evil, between good and sin. Yes, we can and should be able to carefully judge well in life.
2. Jesus referred to judging with a critical attitude... that shows no humility, grace, or mercy... like Pharisees... being “judgmental” vs. using good, thoughtful judgement.
3. Being merciful, just as your Father is merciful is key to understanding and applying these scriptures to our lives.
4. A key to understanding the other aspect of “Judge not” is that a faithful Christian should know and remember their own status before God. We too have thought, said and done evil things, and ultimately these are all against God and how has God handled it with us? He offers mercy and grace.
5. God the Father is merciful to us through Jesus and because of Jesus. This other-worldly type mercy that God unconditionally gives to us must be shown in and through our lives.
6. In love and humility, we also must proclaim the Truth of God’s Holy Word – both Law and Gospel. The Law that shows our sin and the Gospel that shows our Saviour.
7. It is our God-given responsibility to at times confront others with their sin – not to condemn them, but out of love, confront in order to call them to repentance and be saved. Love compels us to warn others of danger!
8. We – ourselves – need to be in daily repentance if we are going to humbly and out of love declare the Law and talk about sins of others.
9. Christian loves says, “Stop... you’re about to perish. Turn.”

Confession and Absolution

- P** As the patriarch Joseph received his brothers in spite of their sin because of God’s gracious providence, so we are called this day to be renewed by the forgiveness of our sins. Let us then confess our sins to God our gracious Father.
- C** **Almighty God, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another by our thoughts, words, and deeds, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. By Your grace revealed to us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant us Your deliverance and forgiveness. Renew a right heart within us by Your love and mercy. Amen.**
- P** Upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

MEN - For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN - For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

MEN - For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN - For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

MEN - For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

WOMEN - For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Lord, have mercy.**

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**ALL – We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him
thanks and praise.**

Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C 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.**

The Peace of the Lord

- P** The peace of the † Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.**

Communion

Lord Have Mercy

Jesus I've forgotten the words that You have spoken
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom
Forgive me for my unbelief
Renew the fire again

CHORUS: *Lord have mercy Christ have mercy*
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me

I have built an altar where I've worshiped things of man
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing
Pardon my transgressions
Help me love You again **CHORUS**

I have longed to know You and all Your tender mercies
Like a river of forgiveness ever flowing without end
So I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your presence
Your grace forever shining
Like a beacon in the night **CHORUS**

ENDING: *Lord have mercy Lord have mercy on us* 4x

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Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just a I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Lamb of God

Your only Son, no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Your gift of Love they crucified
They laughed and scorned him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

***CHORUS: Oh Lamb of God, Sweet Lamb of God
I love the Holy Lamb of God
Oh wash me in His precious Blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God***

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called a lamb of God ***CHORUS***

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Closing Prayer

The Blessing

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

CHORUS

Amen

Amen

Amen

1st Bridge

May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children

2nd Bridge

May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you

3rd Bridge

In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you

Tag

He is for you
He is for you

CHORUS

Amen

Amen

Amen

Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick
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Benediction

- P** May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us.
God, our God, shall bless us.
- C** **God shall bless us;
let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalm 67:1, 6–7; Numbers 6:24–26

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