

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany /

Lectionary 7, Year C



Please welcome Kathy Robinson as she leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

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.

Please stand if able.

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.

P: 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.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us” #707

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).
C: And also, with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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.

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.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

R: Please read responsively to Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

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

(Ps. 37:11)

¹ Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers;
do not be jealous of those ¹ 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. R**
- 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 on- | ly to evil. R**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess 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 pos- | sess the land;
they will delight in abun- | dance 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. R

Second 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.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ 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: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God’s intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

[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.”

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Pulpit Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#656

Sermon

Kathy Robinson

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

#603

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Sue Schwede

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

After “God of grace,” please respond with “receive our prayer.”

A brief silence.

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

The Lord’s Prayer

Offertory Hymn

“This Little Light of Mine”

#677

The usher will bring up the offering plate.

Please stand if able.

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.

Amen.

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

#608

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 2/16/2025: 28

Prayer Concerns: Joan Bonstead, Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Roger Neiter, Karen Spoehrs. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Organist/Pianist: Karen Z.

Reader: Sue Schwede

Usher: Mike Schwede

Video Recorder: Bob Henning

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, and Pattie Bricko

March 2025 Immanuel News Newsletter. The last day to submit items for the March 2025 newsletter will be February 24, 2025.

Devotionals Available: I have received Large/Small Portals of Prayers and Large/Small Print of Christ in Our Home devotionals. They will be in the Narthex but if you need me to mail you a copy, please let me know. Have a great weekend and stay warm.

The Men's Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Food Pantry Donations for the Neighbors' Place

Place your items on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.

40 Days 40 Items

In observance of the Lenten Season, many people choose to “give up” something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. An alternative to or perhaps in addition to this observance is to “take on” something new.

You can collect an item for each day of Lent—40 days yields 40 much-needed items in our community for many organizations. You will make a profound impact on your community while you are reflecting on your life and making personal changes.

Please consider contributing the following shelf stable food to your local food bank, clothing or hygiene items to those that need it. You can bring these items to church and place them in the appropriate donation location, and we will sort and distribute at the end. Items collected will then be distributed amongst Neighbors Place, The Marty Bus, Women's Community and Community Clothing Closet.

1. Peanut Butter
2. Socks
3. Canned Meal with Pop Tops
4. Canned Chicken/Tuna
5. Pasta
6. Spaghetti Sauce
7. Cereal
8. T-Shirts

9. Canned Vegetables
10. Canned Fruit
11. Oatmeal
12. Applesauce
13. Pants
14. Spices/Sauces
15. Jelly
16. Juice/Juice Boxes
17. Flour, Sugar or Oil
18. Sweatshirts
19. Side Dishes
20. Soup
21. Popcorn/ Snacks
22. Hamburger Helper
23. New Tarps
24. Baked Beans
25. Granola Bars/Protein Bars/Pop Tarts
26. Water
27. Laundry Soap
28. Toilet Paper
29. New Underwear/Boxers
30. Instant Mashed Potatoes
31. Microwave Meals
32. Crackers [i.e. Saltine or “Ritz”]
33. Cake Mix with Frosting
34. Walking Shoes without holes
35. Individual Drink Mixes ex. Propel
36. Tooth brush/Toothpaste
37. Paper Towel
38. Bath Soap
39. Shampoo/Conditioner
40. Deodorant

Please bring your donations to any of the following four church locations:
St. Stephens, Good Shepherd, Pilgrim, or Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you
have questions feel free to reach out to Shauna Robinson, 608-514-4504,
nutband@gmail.com

March 2025 Worship Servers

Worship Leader

DATE	PIANIST / ORGANIST	READER	USHER / GREETERS	VIDEO TAPER	COMMUNION
3/2/2025	Delores Kessel	Al Solomonson	Bruce Knox	Bob Henning	
3/9/2025	Karen Zuidema	Adam Doede	Bob Doede	Bob Henning	
3/16/2025	Delores Kessel	Vern Diestelhorst	Kathy and Bruce Knox	Bob Henning	
3/23/2025	Karen Zuidema	Sue Schwede	Mike Schwede	Bob Henning	
3/30/2025	Karen Zuidema	Sue Schwede	Mike Schwede	Bob Henning	
Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, and Pattie Bricko					

Pastor Schedule for March 2025:

3/2/2025	Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany	Pastor Richard Block
3/9/2025	First Sunday in Lent	Kathy Robinson
3/16/2025	Second Sunday in Lent	Kathy Robinson
3/23/2025	Third Sunday in Lent	Deacon Everett Schmidt
3/30/2025	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Kathy Robinson

Notes