

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

02/23/2025

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#526 "God is Here"](#)

1. God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3. Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: [Glory to God in the Highest](#)



A Glo-ry to God in the high- est, and peace to his peo- ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav- en- ly king, al- might- y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, throughout the ages you judge your people with mercy, and you inspire us to speak your truth. By your Spirit, anoint us for lives of faith and service, and bring all people into your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 32

L ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

C ²**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

L ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

C ⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

C ⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

L ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C ⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

L ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

C ¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

L ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

LUKE 7:36-50

L A reading from Luke: ³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet,

weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."


L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#733 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Pastor Greg's Context-O-Meter for the Gospel of Luke

	The Prologue	1:1–4
	The Infancy Narratives	1:5–2:52
	Preparation for the Ministry of Jesus	3:1–4:15
	The Ministry of Jesus in Galilee	4:16–9:50
	The Journey to Jerusalem	9:51–19:27
	The Ministry of Jesus in Jerusalem	19:28–21:38
	The Suffering and Death of Jesus	22:1–23:56
	The Resurrection of Jesus	24:1–53

Please stand, as you are able.

- 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, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

RESPONSE: ["Create in Me"](#)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

A brief silence.

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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,

C **hear our prayer.**

L 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. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Michelle Drayson, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Lydia Hendersen, Mark Hughes, Kaitlyn Leedy, Charlotte Leer, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, the Spiegler family, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

The congregation is invited at this time to lift up prayers quietly or aloud.

L We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

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

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
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**

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**

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"](#)

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills

Ellicott City, MD 21043

<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Sunday, 3/2/2025 3:00 pm – Memorial Service for Dottie Reitz
- Tuesday, 3/4/2025 Pancake Supper by the Venture Crew, 5:00 – 8:00 pm
- Wednesday, 3/5/2025 Ash Wednesday, 7 pm
- Wednesday Lenten Series – Soup-and-Bread Supper beginning 3/12/2025 6 pm

Upcoming Worship

Date	Liturgical Day	Preaching Texts	Worship Leader
March 2	Transfiguration	Luke 9:28-45	Heidi and Bob
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Luke 9:51-62	Pastor Greg
March 9	1 Lent	Luke 10:25-42	Julie and Dave
March 16	2 Lent	Luke 13:1-9, 31-35	Ron
March 23	3 Lent	Luke 15:1-32	Monica
March 30	4 Lent	Luke 16:19-31	Pastor Greg
April 6	5 Lent	Luke 18:31-19:10	Heidi and Bob
April 13	Palm Sunday	Luke 19:29-44	Julie and Dave

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