

February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

“St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School”

Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough

Principal: Jason Schapekahn

Welcome, Friend!

You Have Come To The Right Place!

Jesus Loves YOU!

WELCOME

Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future. For more information, please contact

Pastor Kimbrough at 414-263-1373

or Principal Jason Schapekahn at 414-659-4688.

THEME OF THE DAY

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven’t we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ’s enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself.

Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

844 What God Ordains Is Always Good

CW 844



1 What God or-dains is al - ways good: his will is just and
2 What God or-dains is al - ways good: he nev - er will de -
3 What God or-dains is al - ways good: though I the cup am
4 What God or-dains is al - ways good: this truth re - mains un -



ho - ly. As he di - rects my life for me, I fol - low
ceive me; he leads me in his right - eous way and nev - er
drink - ing which sa - vors now of bit - ter-ness, I take it
shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or death be mine, I shall not



meek and low - ly. My God in - deed in ev - 'ry need knows
will he leave me. I take con - tent what he has sent; his
with - out shrink - ing. For af - ter grief God grants re - lief, my
be for - sak - en. I fear no harm, for with his arm he



well how he will shield me; to him, then, I will yield me.
hand that sends me sad - ness will turn my tears to glad - ness.
heart with com - fort fill - ing and all my sor - row still - ing.
will em - brace and shield me; so to my God I yield me.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708, abr.
Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called 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.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

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.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest



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



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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

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



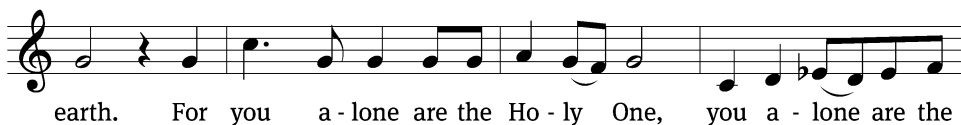
us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. 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.



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



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Genesis 45:1–15

The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers after they had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶For two years now

there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

¹²“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day – Responsive Reading – Psalm 103 (selected verses)

Reader: Praise the Lord, O my soul,

Congregation: All my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Reader: He forgives all your sins,

Congregation: And heals all your diseases.

Reader: He redeems your life from the grave,

Congregation: And crowns you with love and compassion.

Reader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

Congregation: Slow to anger, abounding in love.

Reader: He does not treat us as our sins deserve

Congregation: Or repay us according to our iniquities.

Reader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

Congregation: So great is his love for those who fear him.

Reader: As far as the east is from the west,

Congregation: So far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Reader: As a father has compassion on his children,

Congregation: so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Reader: For he knows how we are formed,

Congregation: he remembers that we are dust.

Reader: Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;

Congregation: the wind blows over it and it is gone.

Reader: But the Lord's love is with those who fear him

Congregation: from everlasting to everlasting.

Reader and Congregation:

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.

Second Reading

Romans 12:14–21

Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggression. Yet, he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

 "If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

 if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:44,45

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

In our interactions with others, Jesus calls us to disregard what people deserve. Instead, we are to show the same grace that God has shown to us.

²⁷“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be 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. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729

(Please rise for the final stanza.)



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.
Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph Hillman
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text – Genesis 45:1-15

Sermon Theme –

"Forgiveness: The Key to Healing a Dysfunctional Family"

Problem: Every Family Has Brokenness (Dysfunction)

- 1. Dysfunction Doesn't Have to Define Us (Genesis 45:1-3)**
Application: Are we allowing our family's past to shape our future?

- 2. Recognize God's Plan in Our Pain (Genesis 45:4-8)**
Application: Are we trusting God's purpose in our family struggles?

- 3. Move from Forgiveness to Reconciliation (Genesis 45:9-13)**
Application: What steps can we take to heal broken relationships in our families?

- 4. Love and Forgiveness Breaks the Cycle of Dysfunction (Genesis 45:14-15)**
Application: Are we willing to be the one who starts the healing process in our family?

Solution: Live in God's Forgiveness and Trust in God's Plan

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Offering

Please place your offerings in the box at the back of church.

Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:

<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.

General Prayer

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.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of several phrases, each with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." This phrase is repeated twice. The final phrase is "A - men. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

A - men. A - men.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Be seated

Distribution

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

928 May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

CW 928

May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's
bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor
rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in
un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in
sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807
Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

www.wels.net

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister

Pastor Raymond Kimbrough

Lay Reader & Liturgy

Cody Bone

Organ

Nicole Cottman

In Our Prayers

Judi Tevich

Kitty Henderson

Natasha McCants

Melvin Reed

Sheila Kimbrough

David Ryles

Belinda Whitley

Erskin Henderson

St. Philip Lutheran School Families, Students & Staff

Next Week: March 2, 2025

Praise Band leads worship

Lay Reader: Thomas McNeal

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Sunday, March 2

Bible Class 9:30AM

Worship 10:30AM

Praise Band Leads Worship

CHURCH OFFERINGS UPDATE

	Week <u>2-10 – 2-16-25</u>	Month <u>February</u>	July to Date <u>2024-2025</u>
Budget	\$ 3,490.57	\$ 10,471.70	\$ 117,641.51
Actual	\$ 3,337.00	\$ 10,248.70	\$ 95,745.53
Over (Under)	(\$ 153.57)	(\$ 223.00)	(\$ 21,895.98)

*Please place your offerings in the box at the back of church.
Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:
<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.*

CALLS RECEIVED

Dear Members of St. Philip's,

On Monday, Feb. 10, I received a divine call from Wisconsin Lutheran School (WLS) in Racine to serve as the sixth-grade homeroom and middle school ELA and art teacher. On February 17th, I received a divine call to teach 1st grade at Risen Savior Lutheran School, additionally on February 18th, I received a divine call to teach 3rd grade at Atonement Lutheran School. I am truly humbled by these calls and grateful for the opportunity to evaluate how my gifts might be best used to serve God's kingdom.

Over the next few weeks, I will be speaking with members of all three schools to learn more about their ministries. I would also treasure any advice or encouragement that you may wish to share with me as I deliberate. Please keep me in your prayers as I embark on the deliberation process, as well as for my students here at St. Philip's. I trust that God will bless both the ministry at St. Philip's and at WLS, Risen Savior and Atonement.

In Christ,
Lisa Chamberlain

CALL RECEIVED

Dear Members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church,

On Monday, January 27, I received a divine call to serve at Salem Lutheran School in Milwaukee as K4 teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. I am looking forward to considering how I can make the best use of the gifts God has given me to continue to serve his kingdom.

As I prayerfully come to a decision during these next few weeks, I welcome any thoughts or insights you may have for me. I ask that you pray for God's blessings on Salem and their ministry, along with your prayers for me and the ministry here at St. Philip's.

As Romans 8:28 reminds us, God is always working out his perfect plans for the good of his church. With that in mind, I trust that God will guide and bless my deliberation, just as he will continue to be with me and bless my work among you.

In Christ,

Grace Sauer

gsauer@stphilipsmilwaukee.com

(920) 245-1898



WLHS MUSICAL – Wisconsin Lutheran High School is excited to present the musical "*Singin' in the Rain*" with shows on Friday and Saturday, February 28 and March 1 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. Hilarious situations, snappy dialogue and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards make this show the perfect entertainment for fans of the golden age of movie musicals. **Tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m.** Purchase tickets in advance online for a discounted rate at wlhs.org/musical.

WLHS Dinner Auction Save the Date—The Wisconsin Lutheran High School Dinner Auction will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025. To participate in some pre-auction fun and receive updates, request to join the WLHS Auction Facebook group page. For information about sponsorships and donating items, visit wlhs.org/events.



The Black Excellence Awards is an inspiring event dedicated to celebrating the remarkable achievements and contributions of African Americans in various fields, including Education, Arts, Culture, Religion, and Business. This year, in a special tribute to Four Decades of Excellence, the awards will honor 40 phenomenal women who have made impactful strides and demonstrated outstanding dedication in their respective areas.

St. Philip's own, Ms. Willie Mae (Peaches) Reynolds will be receiving one of these Black Excellence awards on February 28, 2025. To God be the glory! Congratulations to Willie Mae!





The name Jackie Robinson resonates deeply, as he shattered the color line in 1947 when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. But he wasn't alone. The Negro Leagues were full of Black stars who showcased world-class talent long before Major League Baseball allowed them in. Players like Satchel Paige and Josh Gibson were legends who played not for recognition but for the love of the game, paving the way for future generations to shine.

Their journey was more than just about baseball—it was a testament to faith, perseverance, and purpose. Just as God equipped David to stand before Goliath, these athletes stood firm against the giants of racism and injustice. Their resilience reminds us that when God ordains a path, no man can block it. They didn't just change the game; they changed history, proving that faith and determination can break any barrier. Let their legacy inspire us to keep pressing forward, knowing that with God, all things are possible.



St. Philip's Lutheran Church & School
Pastor Raymond Kimbrough
3012 N Holton Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Church: 414-263-1373

Cell Phone: 414-254-6093

TO FRIENDS AND VISITORS

*This is the house of God. In His Name we welcome each and every person.
May His Word bring you closer to your Savior, assuring you of the
forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*If you are without a church home or have recently moved to the area, our
pastor will be happy to call on you or answer your questions about church
membership. If you are burdened with sorrow or trouble, we invite you to
call on the pastor at any time.*

School Office Phone: 414-263-7614
Church Office Phone: 414-263-1373

Church Service – 10:30AM
Bible Class – 9:30AM