

Order of Service, Readings, and Prayer

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
February 23, 2025

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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Children's Message	Rev. Tim Kneuss
Children's Church	

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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**The Congregation will stand in reverence.*



Today's Readings

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

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 Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

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.

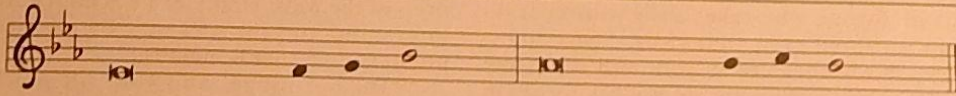
⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God 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 delay. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹I 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."

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

Psalm

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; tone 4



Do not be provoked by ¹ evildoers;
do not be jealous
of those ¹ who do wrong.
²For they shall soon wither ¹ like the grass,
and like the green grass ¹ fade away.
³Put your trust in the LORD ¹ and do good;
dwell in the land and ¹ find safe pasture.
⁴Take delight ¹ in the LORD,
who shall give you your ¹ heart's desire.
⁵Commit your way to the LORD;
put your trust ¹ in the LORD,
and see what ¹ God will do.
⁶The LORD will make your vindication
as clear ¹ as the light
and the justice of your case
like the ¹ noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD
and wait ¹ patiently.
Do not be provoked
by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in ¹ evil schemes.
⁸Refrain from anger, leave ¹ rage alone;
do not be provoked;
it leads on- ¹ ly to evil.
⁹For evildoers shall ¹ be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD
shall pos- ¹ sess the land.
¹⁰In a little while
the wicked shall ¹ be no more;
even if you search out their place,
they will ¹ not be there.

continued

Psalm, continued

³¹But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight
in abundance of peace.
³²But the deliverance of the righteous
comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold
in time of trouble.

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them
and rescue them;
you will rescue them
from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

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

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As 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. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What 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

Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 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? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If 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. ³⁵But 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. 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, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

TODAY'S READINGS February 23, 2025

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Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a].

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