

Introit

A Be still before the Lord and wait patiently | for him;*

fret not yourself over the one who prospers | in his way.

C **Fret not yourself because of evil- | doers;***
be not envious of wrong- | doers!

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

Trust in the Lord, | and do good;*
dwelling in the land and befriending | 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 be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen..

A Be still before the Lord and wait patiently | for him;*

fret not yourself over the one who prospers | in his way.

(Psalm 37:1-5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b)

Collect of the Day

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – Genesis 45:3-15

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.

Epistle - 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

For 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.

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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.

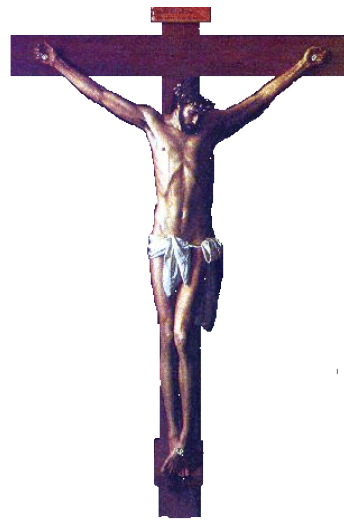
The Holy Gospel – Luke 6:27–38

[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."



Soli Deo Gloria

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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A WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME to all who gather in the Lord's House today. You have joined with the seen and unseen host of God, around the throne of the Lamb, to be served by the Triune God through the preaching of His Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! Therefore the entire Liturgy places God at center stage as He acts towards His people through the Word and Sacraments to bring His gifts of life and salvation. That is why the Liturgy is called "Divine Service" - it is God's Service to His people! This service reaches its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper or Sacrament of the Altar.

The congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Zimmer about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation. It is the sincere prayer of this congregation that our careful practice of the administration of the Lord's Supper will not be a hindrance to our fellowship with you but instead that it would lead you to appreciate the high regard we have for Christ and His Word concerning this precious gift. **We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding. Thank you for your understanding.**