

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" *LSB 725*

1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 42*

Pastor: As by a man came death,

People: by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

Pastor: As in Adam all die,

People: so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Pastor: What is sown is perishable;

People: what is raised is imperishable.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 6:27, 32, 37*

Pastor: Confident of our Lord's victory over death, leading all who follow Him by faith, let us confess our sins, using our Lord's Words from our Gospel reading as a mirror to our lives. Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." We confess our failure to love our enemies, O Lord.

People: We have responded to them as they have dealt with us. We have not done to them as we wish they would have done to us. Forgive us for this, Dear Father.

Pastor: “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?” We confess our giving preference to people who are like us.

People: We have loved those near and dear to us and have dealt with others without love and mercy. Forgive us, Dear Lord.

Pastor: “Judge not, and you will not be judged.” We confess our judgment of people, for our struggles to speak well of our neighbor, and failures to put the best construction on everything.

People: We have failed to pass on the forgiveness we have received from You, and have not used our words in ways that honoring, or God pleasing. Forgive us, Gracious Lord.

Pastor: Our Lord has heard your pleas for grace, and grants you His forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 37:1–5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b*

Pastor: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

People: Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

Pastor: For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

People: Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Pastor: Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

People: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

All: 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.

Pastor: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: and strengthen us to convey Your mercy to those around us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: and renew strong faith in You to follow You in all things.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: and open our hearts and minds to Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Majesty” Jack Hayford

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Majesty, worship His majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority

Flow from His throne unto His own;

His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty –

Jesus who died, now glorified,

King of all kings.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 45:3–15* (Joseph explains to his brothers that God is really in control of all things, including their selling him into slavery.) 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. So 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. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For 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. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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 tarry. You 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. There 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.’ And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “All You Nations, Praise the Lord”

All you nations, praise the Lord, For us all He’s kept His word.
All you peoples, sing His praise, Spread the news here and abroad.
For the steadfast love of God Is our undeserved reward.

God’s great faithfulness endures, Now and evermore the same.
Glory to the Lord is due; To all nations praise His name.
May we each an off’ring bring To the courts of Christ our King.

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EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42* (“What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.”) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ... Why am I in danger every hour? I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! What 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.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake 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. But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the

same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There 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. There 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. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 6:27–38* (Jesus preaches about loving our enemies, beggars we meet, and others.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To 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. Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And 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. But 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. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty” –Text by Peter Ellis. Used by permission. CCLI

Lavish love, abundant beauty, gracious gifts for heart and hand,
Life that fills the soul and senses, all burst forth at Your command.
Lord, our Lord, Eternal Father, Great Creator, God and Friend.
Boundless power gave full expression to Your love which knows no end.

Who am I that you should love me, meet my every need from birth?
Why invest Yourself so fully in a creature made of earth?
In Your loving heart You planned me, fashioned me with greatest care;
Through my soul You breathed Your Spirit, planted Your own image there.

I am Yours. Eternal Father, all my body, mind and heart.
Take and use me to Your glory, form Yourself in every part.
Lord, Your love brings joy and gladness flowing forth within my soul.
May my very breath and being rise to You, their source and goal.

SERMON

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

Pastor: Dear Friends in Christ, on this day we have the joyful privilege of welcoming into our fellowship at Emmaus Lutheran Church these fellow saints in the body of Christ now present here before you.

To you who are already members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and are transferring your membership to Emmaus congregation, I now ask you before God and this congregation:

Do you desire to become a member of the family of Christ's people at Emmaus, do you intend to join us in faithfully using His precious means of grace: His Word and Sacraments, and do you commit yourself to mission and ministry which He has given us to do in this place? If so, answer, ***"Yes, with the help of God."***

In the Name of our Gracious God and on behalf of the people of Emmaus, I bid you welcome as members of Emmaus Lutheran Church and encourage you to faithfully continue with us in worshiping God, in hearing His Word and sharing His Supper, in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ through word and deed, and in striving for justice and peace in all the earth. May the blessings of the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit rest upon you and abide with you. Depart in peace, serving the Lord!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us, revealing Your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to His own brilliant light. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB p. 208*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son to save us. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by His death on the cross. Strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit that we may faithfully eat His body and drink His blood. Then gather us together with all the faithful to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

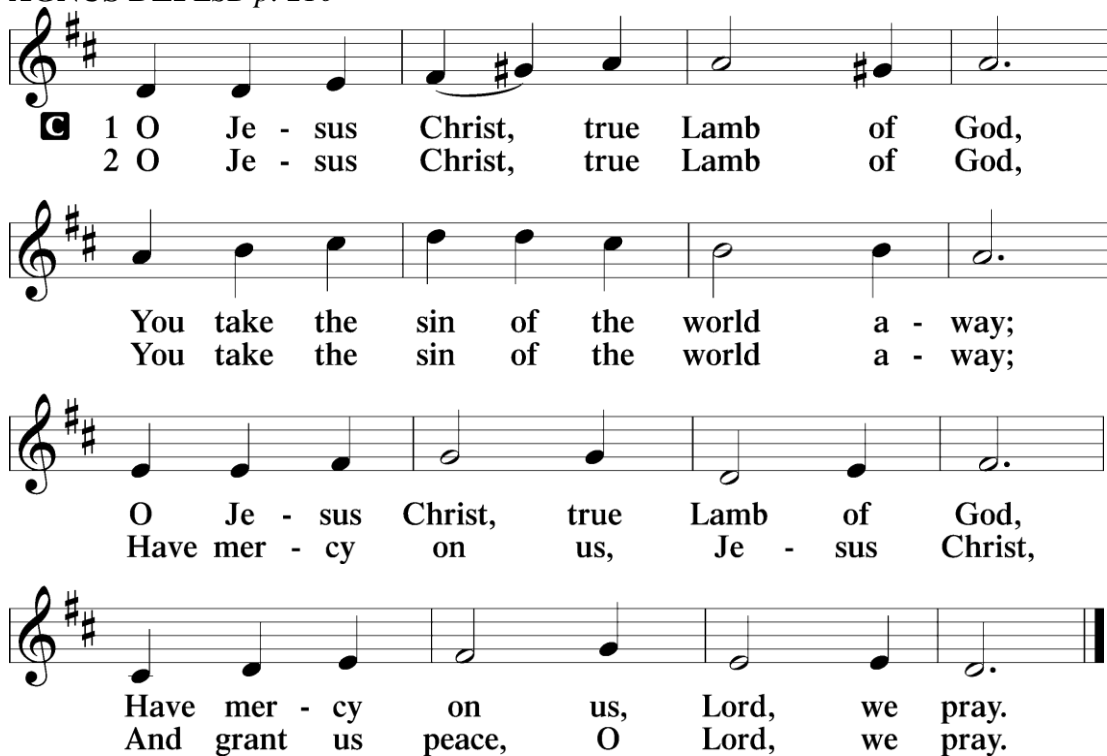
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB p. 210*



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“You Are My All in All” -Dennis Jernigan

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1. You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my All in All.
Seeking you as a precious jewel,
Lord to give up I’d be a fool,
You are my All in All.

Chorus: Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

2. Taking my sin my cross, my shame,
Rising again I bless Your name,
You are my All in All.
When I fall down, You pick me up;
When I am dry, You fill my cup.
You are my All in All. *Chorus*

“Come to the Table” -Claire Cloninger, Martin J. Nystrom

Come to the table of mercy
Prepared with the wine and the bread
All who are hungry and thirsty
Come and your souls will be fed

Come at the Lord's invitation
Receive from His nail-scarred hand
Eat of the bread of salvation
Drink of the blood of the Lamb

Claire Cloninger, Martin J. Nyström. CCLI Song #675056 © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Curb Word Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. CCLI License

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord’s body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You to guide, protect, and defend us so that we may always let Your love, mercy, and forgiveness move our hearts and minds; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” WOV 765

Refrain: Jesu Jesu

Fill us with Your love

Show us how to serve

The neighbors we have from You

1. Kneels at the feet of His friends
Silently washes their feet
Master who pours out himself for them

2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor
Varied in color and race
Neighbors are nearby and far away

3. These are the ones we will serve
These are the ones we will love
All these are neighbors to us and you

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Silently washing their feet
This is the way we should live with you

Steven Strite, Tom Colvin CCLI Song #7125029 © Words: 1969, 1989 Hope Publishing Company; Music: 2018 Hope Publishing Company

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SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG “Zaccheus Was a Wee Little Man”

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

You are encouraged to take a walk this week with the Lord by reading Galatians. May the Lord make your heart burn with joy at the Good News and your place in His Kingdom!

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 6:30–31 – “Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”* Is it really possible to live like this? Would it really work to be so open-handed and generous? Our conscience often reminds us of our failures, and the Lord knows our frailty, that’s for sure! But a life of faith is a life lived in imitation of Jesus — and every follower of Jesus knows that yes, indeed, it is better to give than to receive.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES: Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year and Emmaus will have 11:30 and 6:30 services. For the rest of the Wednesday Lenten services, Emmaus will host the 11:30 service and the evening service will be at Jehovah.

LENTEN MEALS: We are going to try to serve simple Lenten meals after the 11:30 services again this year starting with March 12. If you are willing to help out by providing food and set up, or clean up, please sign up in the narthex. We appreciate any help you can give. If you have questions, feel free to call or text Pam N.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT: On April 12 at 10:30 a.m., we will be doing a community Easter Egg Hunt to share the Easter message and to serve our neighborhood. At this stage, we are looking for people who are interested in helping with some of the planning and implementation of it. Later we will need help stuffing eggs, setting up, cleaning up, and running the event. If you would like to help with this, please talk with Pastor Kooi.

SOMETHING NEW: For the season of Lent, it is common practice to give up something to help us focus on the life and work of Jesus. This Lenten season, will you join me in trying something different? Instead of *giving up* something we will *add something*: daily Bible readings. For the season of Lent, will you join your brothers and sisters in Christ by walking together in God’s Word? On Transfiguration Sunday, we will pass out these Bible reading plans, and encourage you to read with us throughout the season of Lent as we focus on Jesus Christ and His Work by reading His Word.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS: Join us after church for a special Bible Study on the Word of God and how to read/study the Bible to help prepare for our Lenten reading plan.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “It’s Best to Be with Jesus” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. Life was not meant to be a do-it-yourself project. We need God's help, His strength, His gifts.

CELEBRATING 300 YEARS OF THE MUSIC OF JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH: 300 years ago, the great Lutheran composer Johann Sebastian Bach gave his wife a set of music notebooks. She used them for herself, but also to teach their many children. Children today still play from these notebooks. Saint James Lutheran Church is hosting a series of events in March to celebrate this anniversary. They include a masterclass on Bach’s keyboard music (3/22 at 2:00 p.m.), a Community Bach Birthday Concert (3/22 at 3:00 p.m.), and a lecture / demonstration recital on the Anna Magdalena Notebooks (3/29 at 3:30 p.m.). Children and adults alike will enjoy these events. They will be held at Saint James Lutheran Church, 460 Annapolis St. W., West St. Paul, MN 55118. For details, visit the Celebrate the Birthday page at www.bachsocietyymn.org or the Music Events page at www.saintjameslutheran.com.

COMMUNITY BACH BIRTHDAY CONCERT: Saint James Lutheran Church is inviting musicians of all ages and levels of ability to participate in a special Community Bach Birthday Concert at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 22. Students of any level (beginning to advanced), music teachers, amateurs, and professionals are invited to share their musical gifts. Musicians who would like to perform should fill out the online Musician Application Form. The concert will be held at Saint James Lutheran Church, 460 Annapolis St. W., West St. Paul, MN 55118. For details, visit the Celebrate the Birthday page at www.bachsocietymn.org or the Music Events page at www.saintjameslutheran.com.

SAVE THE DATE ~ SAVE YOUR STUFF: The King of Kings 2025 Spring Recycle Sale will be Saturday, May 31 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by: King of Kings Women's Ministry. Mark your calendars. More information to come.

THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wed: Bulletin Deadline

1:30 p.m. Bible Study (SH)

Fri: Office closed – call Pastor in emergencies

Sat: 12-5 p.m. Organist Rehearsal

Next Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

SERVING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY:

PASTOR: Rev. Nick Kooi

ALTAR GUILD: Donna H

MUSIC LEADER: Pam U

SOUND TECH: Eric R

VIDEO TECH: Matt G

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Donn W

USHERS: Todd and Nicole P

COUNTERS: Peggy K, Nancy W

LECTOR: Kjersti D

GREETER: Linda K

ACOLYTES: Espen D, Marit D