

Faith Lutheran Church - Worship and Communion

February 23, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link

(www.faithlutheranreno.org) or find us on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheran-reno>



*Love
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27

Welcome! We are a family of faith and so glad you are here! Congregation responses appear in bold throughout the bulletin.

Children's Bulletins are available in the narthex (entrance area), providing activities on today's scripture readings. Please enjoy.

God is present in **Holy Communion** and welcomes all who are hungry. You are welcome to the table. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing. Let an usher know if you would like communion at your seat.

Our **Candle Lighting station** is available during worship if you are moved to light as a representation of your prayer for someone or something or in the thanksgiving or sorrows of your heart. All are especially welcome during communion as we sing and commune and pray.

In Worship on the seventh Sunday after Epiphany: Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

Serving Today: *Greeter, Linda Z / Acolyte, Pesis Family / Reader, Jean C / Asst Minister, Todd M / Cantor, Todd M / Ushers, Lukas B & Dorothy B / Altar Guild, Betty T & Annette W / Tech Support, The FLC Tech Team / Counters, Sigrun C & Linda Z / Coffee after Worship, provided today by Theresa W*

-GATHERING-

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

moment of centering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(based on Jeremiah 17 and Psalm 1)

Blessed are those who trust God, whose trust is the Lord.

They are like trees planted by water, sending out roots by the stream.

They have no fear of summer's heat, nor do they wither in the sun.

In the year of drought they are not anxious, for their lives bear the fruit of righteousness.

Come to the waters all you who trust in the Lord.
 Blessed be the holy Trinity, † our wellspring of life!
 Together, let us confess and release our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Guiding God of love,
heal our foolish ways.
We long to forsake the advice of the wicked
and the slow seduction of sinful paths,
but our speech and actions often betray us.
We yearn to be like trees planted beside living waters,
bearing the fruit of righteousness in due season,
but the seat of scoffers calls to us and the temptation to return evil for evil
withers our souls like shrubs in the desert.
Our hearts seek the ways of your Spirit and the waters of life,
but our footsteps lead us into arid, desert sands.
This is not your hope and plan for us. Forgive us.
Turn us again to the healing you so freely offer,
and mend the brokenness in our lives and in our world. Amen.

God looks at us in our brokenness, and offers blessings to all who turn to the Lord.
 With the assurance of God's faithful love, through † Christ, you are made free.
 Live anew as a blessed child of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

ELW #858

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

-WORD-

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. Then 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. 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 five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 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 delay. You 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. I 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.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not be provoked by | evildoers;

do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;

dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

**Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

For evildoers shall | be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

**In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;

they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,

because in you | they seek refuge.

**Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

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?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And 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. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As 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. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your

shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If 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. But 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, 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."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

Hearts Inscribed

Rev. Shaun O'Reilly

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW #710

RESPONSE OF FAITH

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONLord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.****PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.**- MEAL -****OFFERING**

In all things, O God, you are our way, our truth, and our life.

Reveal through us your life-giving work.**MUSICAL OFFERING***All Creatures of our God and King*

arr. Philip Kevern

PRESENTATION HYMN*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful***ELW #184**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING, PREFACE, and SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

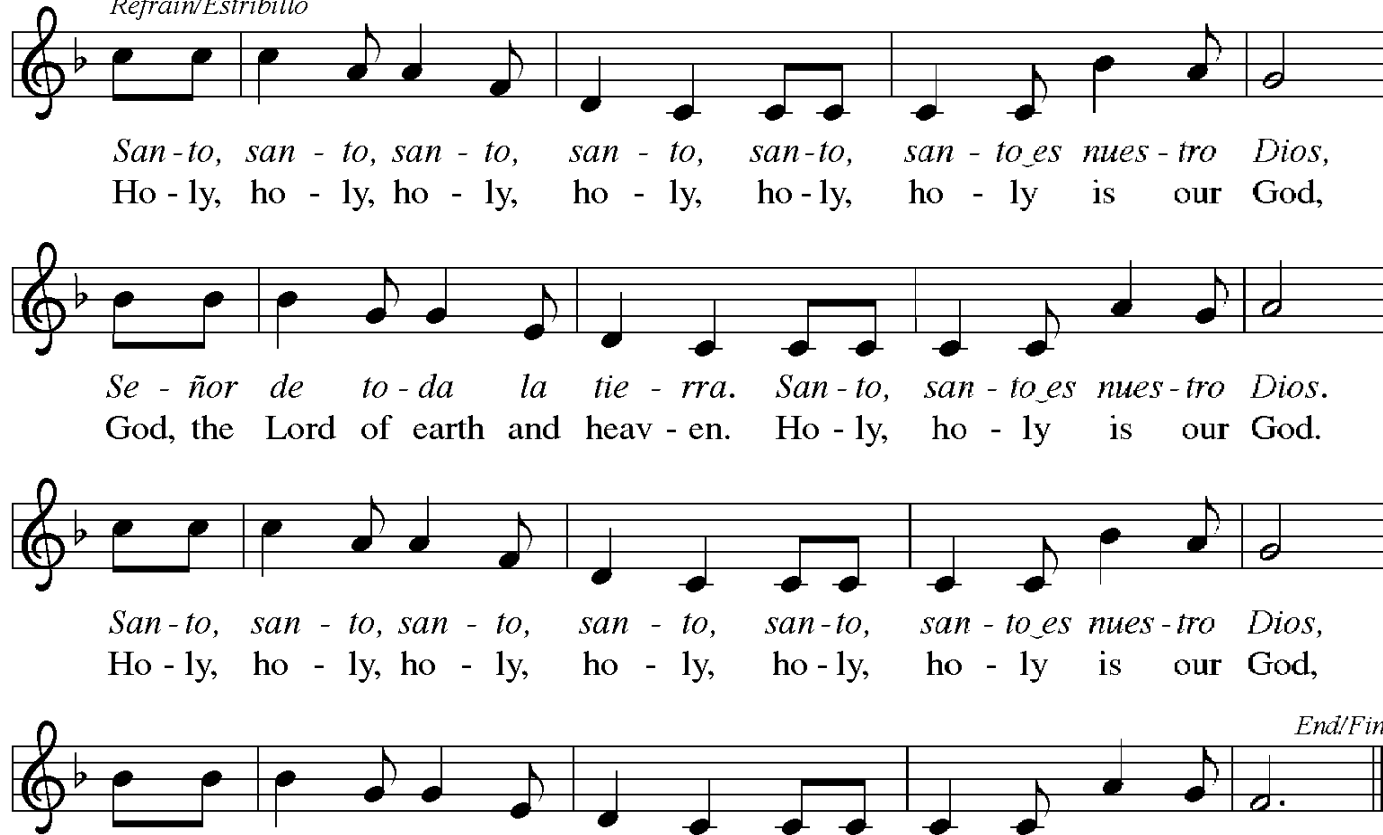
Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

... and join their unending hymn:

Refrain/Estribillo



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,

Se - ñor de to - da la tie - rra. San - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of earth and heav - en. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is our God,

Se - ñor de to - da la his - to - ria. San - to, san - to es nues - tro Dios.
God, the Lord of all of his - t'ry. Ho - ly, ho - ly is our God. *End/Fin*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION AND HYMNS

AGNUS DEI

ELW pg. 174

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

I Come with Joy

ELW #482

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us
share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW #814

Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

-SENDING-

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW #860

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**** denotes a favorite hymn of the congregation***-Activities at Faith-**

- **Mardi Gras Jazz Service! - Next Sunday**, Mar 2nd, after worship New Orleans style food will be offered along with a King Cake in honor of March Birthdays! Invite friends & neighbors to come & see & celebrate!
- **Ash Wednesday** - 12 Noon, Drive-thru Imposition of Ashes
- **LENT - Sundays, Mar 9th - Apr 6th. Join us!**
 5:30pm, Lenten Soup Supper/6:00pm, Service/6:30pm, "The Way"
- **Kids' Place** - 10:50am
- **Adult Forum Schedule** - *Biblical surveys of "Sacrifice"* - Feb 23, The Messiah Mar 2, How Jewish Are We?
- **Consider "The Way"** – our intentional discipleship group beginning in March alongside Lent. There is an information table in the Sanctuary, information on our website, or you can call Pastor Shaun with your interest and questions. We hope many are considering deepening their faith in this way with us!
- **Worship Assistants Needed! - Serve God, Serve Your Church!** Unfortunately we are down in folks able to perform such duties as **ushering, greeting, and altar guild**. If you are able & are moved to assist in these duties let us know asap. Contact Worship Team Chair, Sharon S. or the Office. Blessings & Thank You!

-Shared Harvest in March-

For March we need **42 boxes mac 'n' cheese, 42 cans of chili, 28 jars of peanut butter, and toothpaste/toothbrushes** in unlimited quantities. March packing will be Mar 23rd, 1pm @ Good Shepherd, Reno.

**** February packing is TODAY, Feb 23rd, 1pm @ St Luke's, Reno. ****



Flowers today are given by Sharon Scagliotti in celebration of Dale Scagliotti's 3rd Heavenly birthday.

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

Probably no admonition of Jesus has been more difficult to follow than the command to “love your enemies.” Some men have sincerely felt that its actual practice is not possible. Others, like the philosopher Nietzsche, contend that Jesus’ exhortation to love one’s enemies is testimony to the fact that the Christian ethic is designed for the weak and the cowardly, and not for the strong and courageous. Jesus, they say, was an impractical idealist. But upheaval after upheaval has reminded us that modern man is traveling along a road called hate, in a journey that will bring us to destruction and damnation. Far from being the pious injunction of a utopian dreamer, the command to love one’s enemy is an absolute necessity for our survival. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out in our daily lives.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

[Strength to Love, (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963), 47-48.]

On Luke 6:27-38:

Luke’s Sermon on the Plain urges a radical ethical generosity and extraordinary patterns of forgiveness, in the hope that believers replicate the attitudes of Jesus. Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount and, perhaps ten years later, Luke’s Sermon on the Plain provide somewhat different versions of their common source. For example, Matthew’s “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (5:48) is in Luke “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (6:36). Recall that Luke’s account of the crucifixion (23:34), not Matthew’s, includes Jesus forgiving the soldiers. The rhetoric of 6:38 demonstrates what a masterful writer Luke was.

- Gail Ramshaw

Come to Worship. Go to Serve. Embrace the Community.

www.faithlutheranreno.org

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

	Mar 2025				
Task	2	9	16	23	30
Greeter	Judy C	Welmerinks	Linda Z	Judy C	Betty T
Acolyte	Pesis'	O'Reillys	Pesis'	O'Reillys	Pesis'
Reader	Pam S	Jean C	Cindy T	Linda Z	Davyann S
Asst. Minister	Cindy T	Louis L	Judi H	Erica W	Todd M
Cantor	Louis L	Sam W	Wes G	Sharon S	Todd M
Usher	Debbie H & Annette W	Tom L & Matthew R	Zack W & Lukas B	Annette W & Debbie H	Matthew R & Tom L
Altar Guild	Betty T & Eileen W	Sharon S & Annette/Betty	Betty T & Annette W	Sharon S & Annette/Betty	Annette W & Betty T
Tech Support	The FLC Tech Team!				
Piano/Organ	Heinz Denoyo				
Accompanying Musician	Olivia Knock, Cellist				
Counters	Theresa W & Linda Z	Davyann S & Linda Z	Stan P & Davyann S	Theresa W & Sigrun C	Sigrun C & Davyann S
Coffee after Worship	MAR B'DAYS Judi Hein	?	?	?	?

Thank you for your hearts of service!