

“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.”

Luke 6:27-28, NRSV

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
7th Saturday after Epiphany* February 22, 2025



www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

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Saturday, February 22, 2025

PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

Spirit Touching Spirit

In our worship we find new communion.
In our worship our spirits join in union.
In our worship our voices sing praise
To the Father above for his wonderful love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit that I love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit that changes my heart.
When our spirits combine, his love becomes mine,
and his Spirit can live in my heart.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L: Most merciful God,

ALL: we come needing your forgiveness. We turn our backs on your unconditional love. We allow the events of our daily lives to slowly and gradually cloud our awareness of you. We are more insensitive than we are rebellious. We are more wooden than we are alive. God, shake us up, turn us around, and give us a new energy to love and follow you. Hear the prayers of our hearts, God.

(A time of silent meditation and reflection.)

L: Jesus promised he would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to be with those who believe in him. Through the waters of baptism, we are given a visual reminder of this great promise; our sins have been washed away and we have been made clean. In the promise of baptism, we are reminded that we do not need to live our lives alone. We are reminded that we have a constant friend and a comforter in Jesus. Praise God for the new life we receive through baptism.

ALL: Amen

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ 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.

⁴ 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. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ 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. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.'" ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ 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.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“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.”

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and he takes away the sin of the world. By his name and grace we live our lives of mission and witness for the world.

We confess God is the creator of all people on earth and has created us to live in a covenant of love established through the Word and Sacraments.

Through baptism we begin a new life, active through the community of believers throughout the world.

We rejoice with those who rejoice and we stand together with those who grieve. In the body and blood of Jesus we find the real presence of Christ and forgiveness for our sin.

Within the church of God we accept our place as missionary, prophet, teacher, helper and friend, in order that we might serve with great purpose the church that presently exists and the church that is to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of Grace,

C: Your abundance reaches the heavens and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me..to be a sanctuary.
Pure and ho-ly..and tried and true.
With thanksgiving..I'll be a liv-ing
Sanctuary..for..you

HOLY COMMUNION

L: Responding to the command of our Lord and desiring the life-giving presence of Christ, we come to the table.

C: The love of God is a gift and we receive by grace.

L: Giving thanks for the life-giving presence of Christ, we share his body and blood.

C: We come with our wounds and faults, ready and willing to be refreshed with the true presence of Christ among us.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: Following our Lord's command and responding to our need for forgiveness, we come!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 DISTRIBUTION



Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Nourishing God,

C: at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Be Bold, Be Strong

Be bold ... Be strong ...
for the Lord your God is with you.
Be bold ... Be strong ...
for the Lord your God is with you.
Do not be afraid ...
do not be dismayed
Walk in faith and victory ...
walk in faith and victory
... walk in faith and victory ...
For the Lord, your God is with you.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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**We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.
We are...“creating and nurturing life changing relationships
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,
so that we may grow in faith,
serve God, and serve our neighbor.”**

LisaAnne Gregg, Office Administrator
Church Office Hours: M-T-W 9am—3 pm
Thurs. hours may vary * Office closed Friday
Email: office@stjohnwilliston.org

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm
Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday School for all ages...
1st Sunday of the month at 8:30 am
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am