# Peace Lutheran Church

Contemporary Service 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Morning Meditation

All of our scripture readings for this morning point to the same truth: God is in control. He was in control when Joseph was sold into slavery. He was in control when Jesus was crucified. He is in control now after rising from the dead and ascending into heaven where he reigns "until he has put all his enemies under his feet." This is indeed good news. But it's also dangerous news. It's risky news. Not because God is malevolent, or because He wants to make you suffer. It's dangerous news because of what it demands. It's risky because of what it costs. It demands surrender. It demands a giving up and letting go. Because if God is in control, it means that you are not. God's providence requires a faith that goes beyond mere knowledge of Him, but a life of total surrender. This is what Jesus describes in Luke 6. To surrender to God and His control over all things means loving your enemies, doing good for those who hate you, giving without thought of being repaid, showing mercy to all, because you trust that God is in control, not you. Joseph lived a life of surrender. When he was in a position to destroy his brothers, he repaid them with mercy. Jesus lived a life of surrender. When he could have come down off the cross, he said, "Father, forgive them", and with his dying breath, Jesus surrendered his life into the hands of His Father. And his faith was not put to shame. Neither will yours. Because God is in control.

### Welcome

**Opening Song** 

"Holy Spirit"

(Stand)

#### Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### **Confession And Absolution**

- P The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
- C the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
- P the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
- C the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
- P the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
- C the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether;
- P I invite you to do this quietly in your own hearts before we confess our sins together before the Lord.

(Silence for prayer and personal confession.)

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sin, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
- P Together we confess our sin to God and to one another:

- C Almighty God, I confess that I have sinned against You this day, and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some of my sin is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask for your forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that my heart may know peace. Amen.
- P 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.

C Amen.

(Sit)

Old Testament- Genesis 45:3-15

And 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.

## **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. 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 are we 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.

Song of Praise

"Ever Be"

(Stand)

Holy Gospel Luke 6:27-38

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."

Confession of Faith
C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man: and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.
This is most certainly true.

Song of the Day

"Gone"

### Offering

An offering basket is available at the entrance

Our tithes and offerings are brought forward and placed on the altar.

For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You. - 1 Chronicles 29:14

(Sit)

#### Sermon

### Pastor Jonathan Dueker

### Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.

**Benediction** 

Numbers 6:24-26

- P 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.
- C Amen.

**Closing Song** 

"Battle Belongs"

† Go in peace and serve the Lord. †