

Psalm 103:8

“The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger
and of great kindness.”



Jesus showing love to people.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (ELW) No. 886

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* (ELW) NO. 742

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

February 20, 2022—Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (Luke 6:36)

Some people think being a Christian is the same as a being a thinking, caring, sensitive person. We fail to see any difference between America and God's kingdom. Church is where we come once in a while to bring out our better nature. But Jesus preaches difficult sermons and after listening to this one, we have a head-on collision with our world view.

Jesus said, “Love your enemies. Be good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other. If someone takes your coat, give them your shirt. Give to everyone who asks and don't demand them back.”

We have prayed, “Thy kingdom come.” But when Jesus came and after hearing this sermon, we wonder if we really wanted God in the first place!

Think of the most loving thing you could do for the very worst person you know. Now think of someone who has been terrible to you. Now picture yourself offering that person your loving hand. See? It really seems absurd to do what Jesus says.

When Jesus tells us to love our enemies, we may say, “That doesn't really apply to me. I am so nice to other people that I don't have enemies.” Be honest. If you have lived in this world, you probably have enemies. The better the person you try to be, the more people will react against you. Look at how the world responded to the preacher of this sermon!

This sermon may not be a list of impossible to accomplish dos and don'ts. This sermon is pointing to who God is and what God is up to in the world.

Jesus is saying to us that we should love our enemies and not retaliate when we have been attacked, because that is exactly the way God has reacted to us. Verse 36 is key to this whole passage: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

We feel the need to evade these commands. These are not suggestions, but actual commands to those who follow Jesus. When it comes to living our lives, deciding how we ought to treat other people and how we are to respond to things that are inflicted upon us, it makes a great deal of difference to know the sort of God we have.

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: O God, You know our fears and lack of confidence. Forgive our willful ways, and defend our faith through the teaching of Your Christ, through whom You gather saints to give You glory without end. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 103:1-13

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

³He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made His ways known to Moses and His works to the children of Israel.

⁸The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹He will not always accuse us, nor will He keep His anger forever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy great upon those who fear Him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.

¹³As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear Him.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation *(sung)*

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* The Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

When Peace like a River

(ELW) No. 785

*The 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

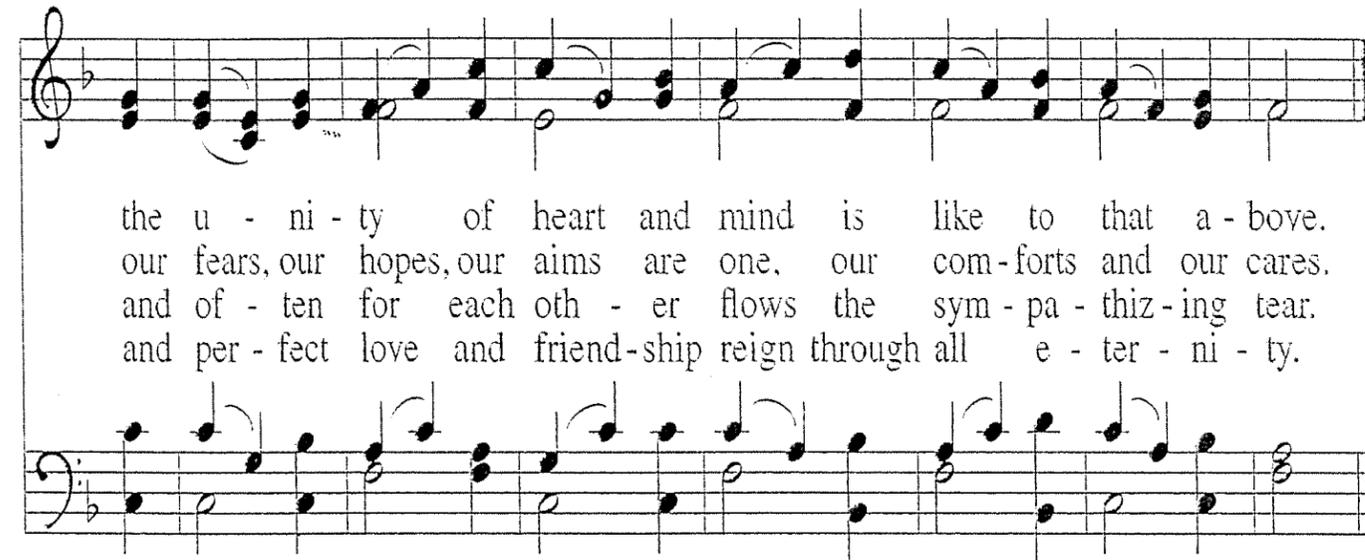
FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares,
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(ELW) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

(ELW) No. 656

*FLC Sending Hymn

Be The Love of Christ

arr. Michael Showalter

Roger Thornhill

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

First Lutheran Church

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724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

website: www.flcwash.church

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Organist and Music Director: Kristina Schuerle

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God.

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Lillah Clark and Elijah Clark.

Counters/Greeters today are C. Group and V. Group.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

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Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Monday at 7 PM.

Dartball on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd at Washington Alliance.

The Flower Chart for 2022 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2022. Please write you names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

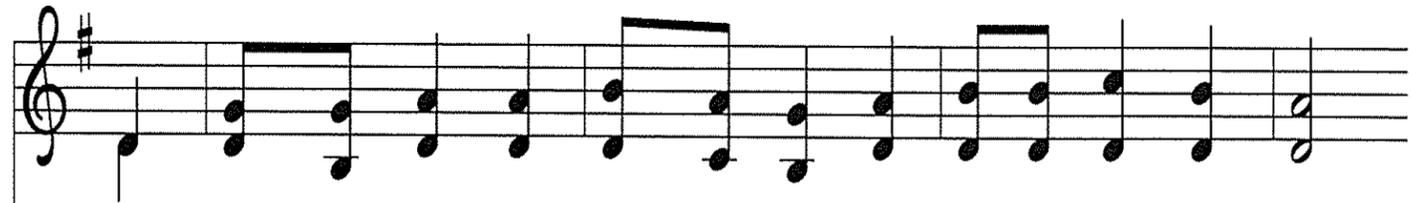
Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2022. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia.
Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

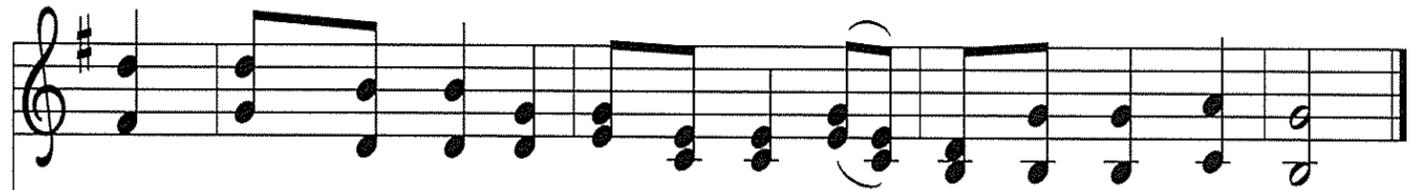
Please pray for those in need of healing:

Betty Johnson, Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Byron Christian, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Sandy Hebrank, Lynn Hudak, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Ashley McCartney, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, Bob Cable, baby Ryan David Mayer, Danielle Pinkerton, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Stephanie Kennedy, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Becky, Mel & Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Barbara, Michael Selarud, Jackie, Jeff Ulanich, Carolyn Wright, Bill Stewart, the Penvose family, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, baby Matthew, Tim & Karen Edwards, Tom Liam, Gary, Judy Dombrowsky, Emily Buchleitner, Sherri Zoeller, and Doug Burke.

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 886



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.



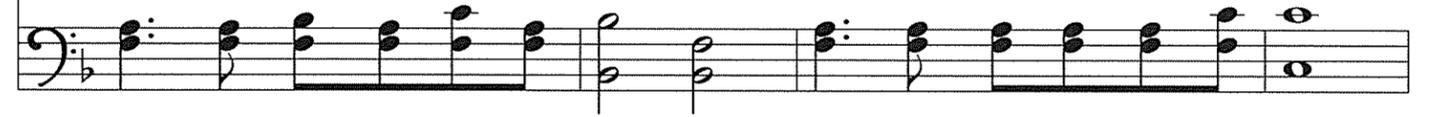
5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 be now and ever giv'n
 by saints below and saints above,
 the church in earth and heav'n.

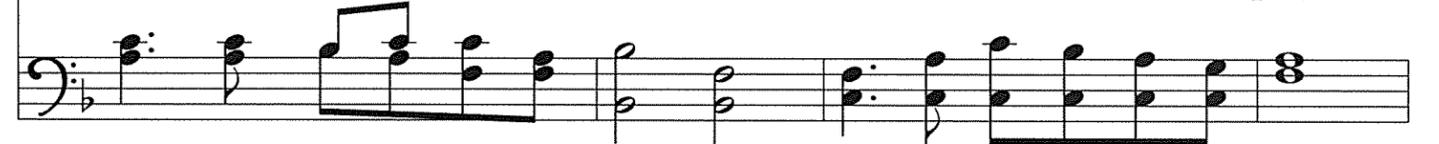
What a Friend We Have in Jesus 742



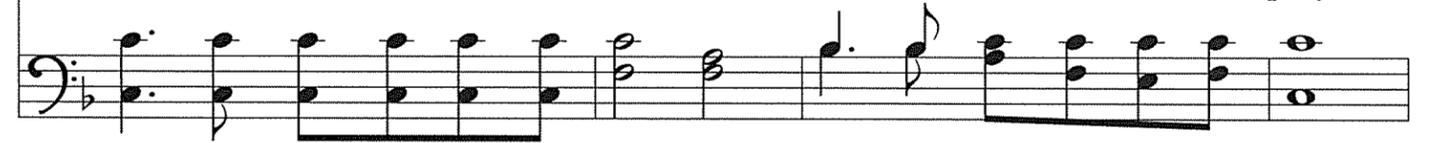
1 What a friend we have in Je-sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri-als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an-y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav-y-lad-en, cum-bere-d with a load of care?



What a priv-i-lege to car-ry ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev-er be dis-cour-aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre-cious Sav-ior, still our ref-u-ge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of-ten for-feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith-ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be-cause we do not car-ry ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je-sus knows our ev-'ry weak-ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

