

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you,

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU,
SO THAT YOU MAY BE SONS OF YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

FOR HE MAKES HIS SUN RISE

— on the evil and on the good —

AND SENDS RAIN ON THE JUST AND ON THE UNJUST.



Sunday, February 23, 2025

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Service Theme

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES,
OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD**

Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven't we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself. Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

646 See This Wonder in the Making

CW 646



1 See this won - der in the mak - ing; God him -
2 Mir - a - cle each time it hap - pens as the
3 Far more ten - der than a moth - er, far more
4 Here we bring a child of na - ture; home we



self this child is tak - ing as a lamb safe in his
door of heav - en o - pens and the Fa - ther beams, "Be -
car - ing than a fa - ther, God, in - to your arms we
take a new-born crea - ture, now God's pre - cious son or



keep - ing, his to be, a - wake or sleep - ing.
lov - ed, heir of gifts a king would cov - et!"
place *him/her/them*, with your love and peace em - brace *him/her/them*.
daugh - ter, born a - gain by Word and wa - ter.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, Sweden, 1873

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Tune: Public domain

The Service

Holy Baptism & Setting One (page 151)

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in
my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism of Hildegard Rose McRae Roulston

Daughter of Adam and Taylor Roulston

(Born December 15, 2025)

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Hildegard Rose McRae Roulston, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart T to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received [*name(s)*] as your own *child* and made *him* a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *him* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



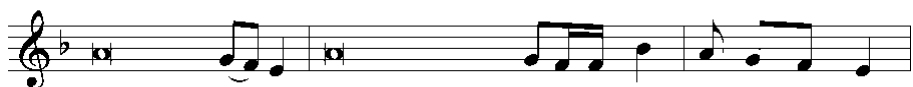
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



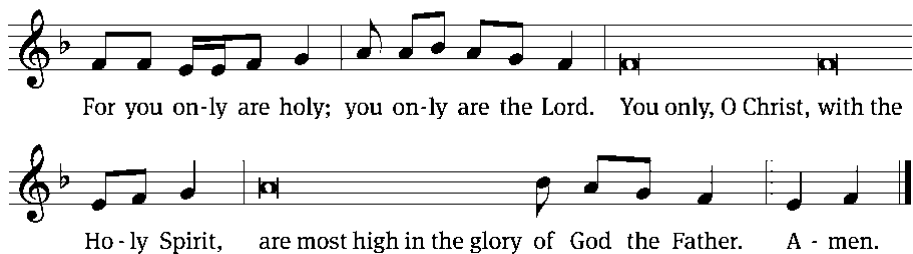
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 45:3–15

The account of Joseph forgiving his brothers after they had sold him into slavery demonstrates that God overcomes evil with good.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?”

His brothers could not answer him, because they were terrified by his presence. ⁴Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me, please.”

They came closer. He said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves for selling me to this place, since God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

⁶For two years now the famine has been in the land, and there are still five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as survivors on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great act of deliverance. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God, and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry, go up to my father and tell him, “This is what your son Joseph says: “God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me. Do not delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the land of Goshen, where you will be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will take care of you here, for there are still five years of famine. Otherwise you will come to ruin, you, and your household, and all that you have.”” ¹²Pay attention. Your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You shall tell my father all about my position of honor in Egypt and about everything that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

¹⁴He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. ¹⁵He kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

103A The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

Psalm 103A

Refrain

The LORD is kind and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

Praise the LORD, / my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—
who forgives / all your sins
and heals all your dis- / eases,
who redeems your life / from the pit
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,
who satisfies your desires / with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,
so great is his love for those who / fear him;
as far as the east is / from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Paul Tate, alt.

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Second Reading

Romans 12:14–21

Paul lived in a Roman empire that operated on the principles of force and aggression. Yet, he encourages believers to operate on the principles of grace, forgiveness, and humility.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

¹⁷Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone.

¹⁹Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him a drink.

For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead; fill us with your
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Sermon

Luke 6:27–36

Jesus Wants Me to Love My Enemies.

- 1) I can't,
- 2) But Jesus did,
- 3) Therefore, by His power, I will.

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From there 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

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [*especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition*]. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, [*especially... here name the person*]. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CW 767



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all for me."
lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th' un - thank - ful
you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
need what we can do, say - ing by your
stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887
Text and tune: Public domain

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.
Amen.**

928 May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

CW 928

May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's
bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor
rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in
un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in
sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807
Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (23) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
11:45 am Long Range Planning Meeting
- Tu (25) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
7:00 pm Council
- We (26) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
- Th (27) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (28) 4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (2) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (4) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- We (5) 11:30 am "New" Foundations Class (BIC)
6:00 pm Pancake Dinner
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday (with Communion)
- Th (6) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Manor
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
- Fr (21) 4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (9) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour

Announcements

Church Cleaners

March 2 – Timothy // March 9 – John



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