

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is February 23, 2025*

+ + +

*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*



*Love  
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Love One Another*

arr. Lynn Trapp

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*kneel or sit*

P: Most merciful God.

**C: Have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

P: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN *All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

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Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

*Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

*Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

L: A reading from Genesis.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



L: A reading from First Corinthians.

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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

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## APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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 INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

L: God of grace; **C: hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*Hallowed Be Thy Name*  
Youth Choir

Traditional, from  
West India

*The assembly stands.*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

*Refrain*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to 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.

**C:** Amen.



## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Congregation:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!  
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

The musical score is written on five staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, beams, and a double bar line at the end.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver  
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*                      *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,                      you take a - way the sin of                      the

*Congregation:*

world:                      have mer - cy on us,                      mer - cy on us,

*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy                      on                      us.                      Lamb of God,                      you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of                      the world:                      grant us peace,

grant                      us peace,                      grant                      us                      peace.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine.*

*Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

*Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:*

*The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

***Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us  
Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive***

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*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Nourishing God, 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,

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

### ***O Day of Peace***

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### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

### *Praeludium und Fughetta in G*

J. K. F. Fischer

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*All Creatures, Worship God Most High!, ELW 835*



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,  
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-  
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:

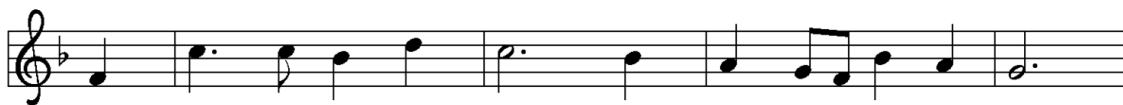


lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

## Oh, Praise the Gracious Power, *ELW 651*



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear  
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds  
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,  
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,  
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:  
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:  
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:  
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:  
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

### *Refrain*



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,  
the love, the word, the tide.  
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,  
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ  
with faith's bright songful voice!  
Announce the gospel to the world  
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

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*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us, ELW 707*



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



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -  
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our  
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have  
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en  
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,  
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—  
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful  
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that mere hap - py  
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your  
 hope, to 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.

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive, ELW 605*



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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## *O Day of Peace, ELW 717*



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.  
as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,  
Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.  
the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

## Introduction to the day:

*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.*

The Eternal Candle for the month of February is sponsored by Birgit Ralston,  
*In loving memory of Manfred Hotz, beloved husband of my cousin, Marina...*

## Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Pastor: Stephen Bohannon sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org  
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren klundgren@stmatthewsva.org  
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn organist@stmatthewsva.org  
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org  
Congregation Council President: Dave Strand councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org  
Lector: Ron Trostel  
Tech Volunteers: Mike Mazzucchi, Chris Moessner, Joyce Forbes  
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mike Fink, Mark Victorson

## For more announcements and upcoming events, please visit [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)

- **February 25** – The Fellowship Small Group Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, February 25, at 7:00PM to continue their discussion of Acts.
- **March 2** – Join us for our Fastnacht Celebration and pancake & sausage dinner—we'll provide the food, entertainment, and music. Sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius to let us know you'll attend.
- **March 8** – Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be held at 7:00PM.
- **March 9** – On March 9 at 2:30PM, the St. Matthew's Book Group will meet here to discuss *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride.