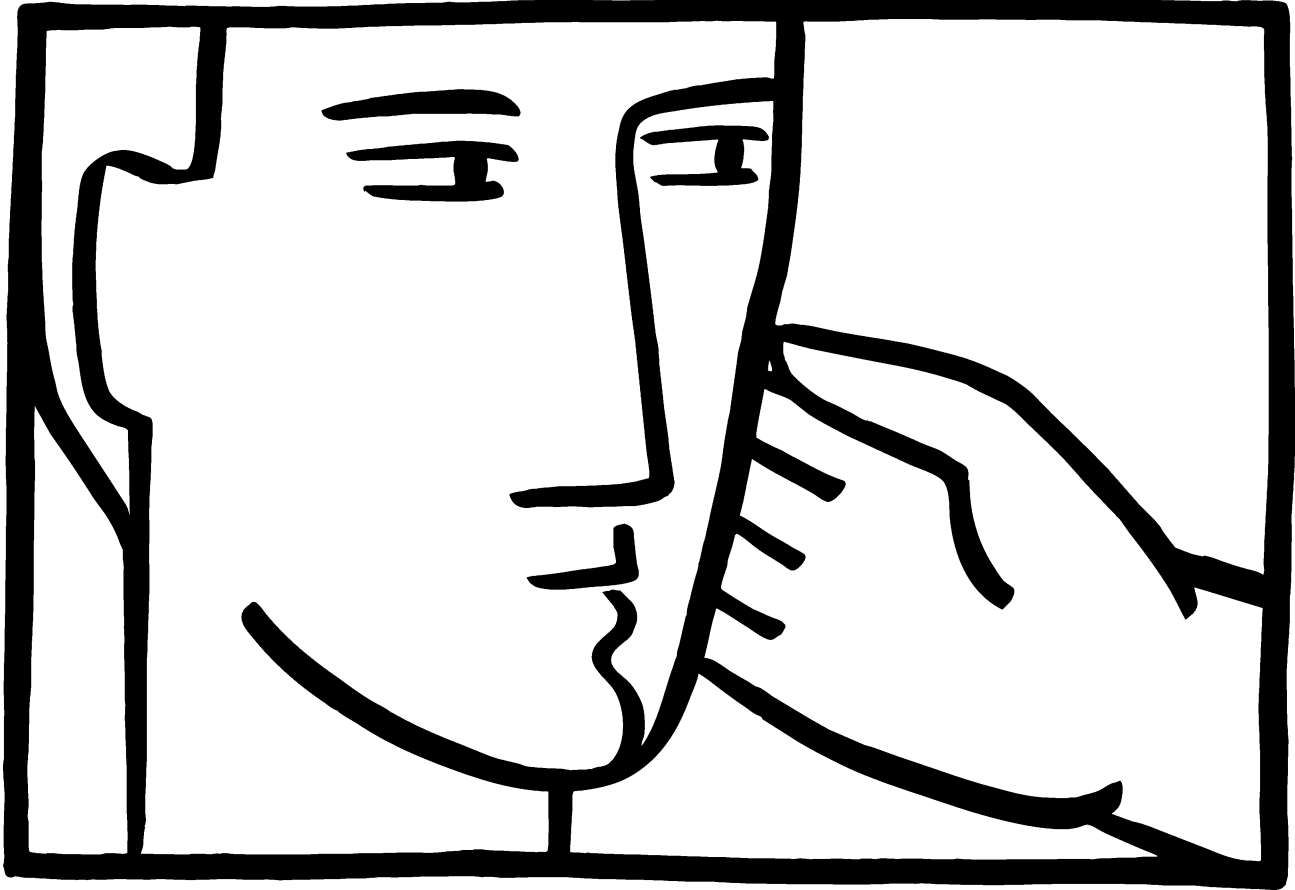


Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

propeace.org

Worship Videos: [YouTube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga](https://www.youtube.com/@princeofpeacesaratoga)



February 23, 2025
7th Sunday of Epiphany

Welcome to worship in this long season of Epiphany! Our readings today invite us to ask ourselves, how do we treat our enemies? How do we respond when we are persecuted or wrongfully treated? We get to delve into the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Our responsive Psalm is rather poignant for these days of divide and struggle in our country as well. It is fascinating to me how often scripture speaks deeply and pointedly to our present day human reality.

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Welcome to Prince of Peace! As we begin worship, we hope and pray this will be a time of connecting to God and one another so that we might leave this worship service ready to love and serve our neighbors.

Bold print indicates response from all the people

Gathering

Prelude *"The Call", from 5 Mystical Songs* Ralph Vaughn Williams

Welcome

****Please stand as you are able****

*Opening Litany

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



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.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Prayer of the Day

○ 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. Amen.

The Word

First Reading

1 Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

But 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

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;

do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds
in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;**

even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in
you they seek refuge.

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 6:27-38

[Jesus said:] ²⁷ “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do 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. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ Be 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; ³⁸ 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.”

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

Kid’s Message

Drew Ajer

Sermon

Pastor Sara

*Song of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Prayers of the People

We join together in praying as a church body. Our prayers are lengthy today, so feel free to stand or sit depending on your comfort.

L: God of grace, **C:** **Hear our prayer.**

***Passing of the Peace**

We give one another a word of peace, as a prayer and a blessing. It is a unique greeting that grounds us here.

Offering

Your offering makes possible and powerful the ministries of this congregation.

You may place your offering in one of the plates in the back of the church. If you wish to give your offering electronically today, please scan this QR code...



Milestones!

You are invited to come forward and share a milestone with the congregation. Anything significant or important in your life. Nothing is too small or too large. Sharing our milestones helps us grow our connections and root ourselves in this compassionate community.

The Meal

Please stand as you are able

*Words of Institution

*Invitation to Receive Communion

Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, welcomes everyone (and we mean everyone!) to this table. No matter one's race, ethnicity, gender expression, citizenship, ability, political affiliation, or faith background.

*The Lord's Prayer

**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.

Communion Music *Pass It On* Kurt Kaiser, arr. Mark Hayes

Anthem

Choir

In a time of divisiveness and anger, we come to the table in unity, and in hoped for unity. It is a moment of peace & encouragement that can buoy our spirits for the living of these days.

Please know that you are welcome at this table!

The communion bread is vegan and we have gluten free options. Wine is red, grape juice is white. Please be welcome here!

If the walk to the altar is too far, just let our ushers know and we can bring you communion.

Dear ones, our worship ends with a sending—we do not go empty handed or empty-hearted. We leave with a blessing, we close with a song whose words and tune can help remind us of the timeless gift that faith gives us to endure, to resist, to rest. Each are faithful responses

+++

Remember, too, if you are looking for community and people to connect with, we have many activities and opportunities to be with others.

The Sending

Announcements

***Blessing**

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

Amen.

***Sending Song** *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace*

(Printed on the next page)

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God. We will!

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude music

Postlude *Fughetta supra Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*

(All Glory Be to God on High) Johann Ludwig Krebs

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
2 Break down the wall that would di - vide thy chil - dren,
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
4 Give me thy cour - age, Lord, to speak when - ev - er
5 With thine own love may I be filled and by thy



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son may I
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the wrong I
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self the vic - tim
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, wher - e'er I



see my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by thee.
sue; let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
do will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.
be, help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring thee.
be, may be di - vine - ly touched by thee.

Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt.

Music: BEATUS VIR, *Šamotulský Kancionál*, 1561

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With thanks to our worship leaders:

Todd Hauschildt, *Head Usher*

Susie Camp, *Reader*

David L. & Ethan W., *Sound & Video Techs*

Cionnee & Don Falkenhagen, *Coffee Hosts*

Prince of Peace Staff

Rev. Sara Pearson, Pastor

Drew Ajer, Director of Youth and Service

Anne Hess, Office Manager

Katie Hoffman, Office Associate

Barbara Day Turner, Director of Music

Michael Touchi, Pianist/Organist

Kerry Lewis, Music Staff Associate

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Welcome Visitors!

We are so glad you joined us! Please use the Visitor Card in the pews and leave it in the offering plate.

Learn about upcoming events: ask for a copy of the “Peace Notes”, our printed announcements and calendar. We invite you to learn more about us on our website at propeace.org.

Prince of Peace is a congregation in the *Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA*.

We are proud to be a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation, publicly affirming our commitment to be a welcoming community of faith for LGBTQ+ people and their families.

We are also a member of *NAMI-FaithNet*, creating mental-health friendly, stigma-free congregations in the Santa Clara Valley.

