

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, we ask you to keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that all who lean on this hope of your promise may gain strength from the power of your love, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-15

³Joseph 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. ⁴Then 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. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For 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. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So 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. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, G;od has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You 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. ¹¹I 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.’ ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

PSALM: Psalm 10:1-13

¹Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

²In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor— let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.

³For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart, those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD.

⁴In the pride of their countenance the wicked say, “God will not seek it out”; all their thoughts are, “There is no God.”

⁵Their ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of their sight; as for their foes, they scoff at them.

⁶They think in their heart, “We shall not be moved; throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity.”

⁷Their mouths are filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under their tongues are mischief and iniquity.

⁸They sit in ambush in the villages; in hiding places they murder the innocent. Their eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;

⁹they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert; they lurk that they may seize the poor; they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.

¹⁰They stoop, they crouch, and the helpless fall by their might.

¹¹They think in their heart, “God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.”

¹²Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.

¹³Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts, “You will not call us to account”?

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ³⁰And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? ³¹I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you—a boast that I

make in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. ³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And 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. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory. ⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

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

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: February 23 rd Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 9:15-Adult SS 9:15-Youth SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship 6:00-Prayer Group Monday: February 24th 7:00-Handbell Rehearsal Tuesday: February 25th 8:30-Prayer Group 9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC Wednesday: February 26th 7:00-Confirmation	Sunday: March 2 nd Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:15-Adult SS 9:15-Youth SS 9:30-Coffee Fellowship 10:30-Worship w /Communion 6:00-Prayer Group
--	---

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Cenon Zarzoso, John Wills, Tami Hawk, Don DeHaan, Dorothy Smith, Janelle Mason, Linda Galbraith, Tim Burton, Desiree Welty, Roberta Baker, Pastor John Mayer, Elizabeth Dunbar, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Pastor James Puotyual, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Lectors:

Ushers: February 23rd -Dean & Eloise Armstrong
March 2nd-Tom & Elaine Anderson

Acolytes: Bethany Youth

Weekly Budget Needs:

Faith Promise		Worship
Sunday School	Adult	Youth



***Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

Altar Flowers:

An asterisk () indicates when to stand (as able)*

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS P.56
 *HYMN *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* **LBW 248**
 *GREETING P.57
 *KYRIE P.57
 *HYMN OF PRAISE P.59
 *PRAYER OF THE DAY *(bulletin-in unison)*

MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-15
PSALM: Psalm 103:1-13 *(bulletin – responsively)*
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42
 *ALLELUIA VERSE P.62
 ***THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 6:27-38
 *GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63
 CHILDREN'S SERMON
 SERMON
 HYMN *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* **LBW 424**
 APOSTLES' CREED P.65

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING P.75
 *OFFERTORY P.75
 *PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
 *PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
 Leader: ...Lord in your mercy
 Response: Hear our prayer.
 ***THE LORD'S PRAYER** **CH 631**

OUR SENDING

*BENEDICTION P.76
 *HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* **CH 589**
 *DISMISSAL



February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT
TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151
 Laurens, IA 50554
 Ph. 712-841-2181
 Email: bethanyalc@gmail.com
 Pastor David Klappenbach
 Cell 419-603-8350 Home 712-841-2532
 Shirley McKiernan, Organist
 Website: www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org

To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

We are a
Christ-Centered
Mission-Driven
Traditionally-Grounded
Congregationally-Focused
Church