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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany | February 23rd, 2025

\*Please stand as you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude**  *Variations on GERALD* (*I Want a Principle Within*) Robert J. Powell

\*Call to Worship

One: In a world where others seek power through control and strength,  
**All:** **Jesus shows us power in love.**

One: When the tempter calls us to rule over others,  
**All:** **Christ calls us to serve.**

One: True power is found in mercy, generosity, and grace.  
**All: Let us worship the God whose strength of love crafted the universe!**

\***Hymn of Praise** 384 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,

joy of heaven to earth come down;

fix in us thy humble dwelling;

all the faithful mercies crown!

Jesus, thou art all compassion,

pure unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation;

enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit

into every troubled breast!

Let us all in thee inherit;

let us find that second rest.

Take away our bent to sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

end of faith, as its beginning,

set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,

let us all thy life receive;

suddenly return and never,

nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing,

serve thee as thy hosts above,

pray and praise thee without ceasing,

glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;

pure and spotless let us be.

Let us see thy great salvation

perfectly restored in thee;

changed from glory into glory,

till in heaven we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,

lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Opening Prayer

**God of mercy,** **you turn the world’s understanding of power upside down.  You teach us to give when the world says take; to love when the world cries hate.  Move through us today, that our worship may shape us in the image of Your love.  Fill us with the courage to walk as Christ walked.  Amen.**

Scripture Reading Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not be angry because of the wicked;  
    do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
**For they will soon fade like the grass  
    and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the Lord and do good;  
    live in the land and enjoy security.  
**Take delight in the Lord,  
    and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the Lord;  
    trust in God, who will act.  
He will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

**Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;  
    do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
    over those who carry out evil devices.**

Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.  
    Do not be angry—it leads only to evil.  
**9For the wicked shall be cut off,  
    but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.  
**But the meek shall inherit the land  
    and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.**

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.  
**The Lord helps them and rescues them;  
    he rescues them from the wicked and saves them  
    because they take refuge in him.**

Music of Preparation

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

arr. Alejandro D. Consolación II

The Chancel Choir

**Scripture Reading Luke 6:27-38**

**Sermon** Greatest temptations: Power Pastor Beth

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Prayer of Confession

God of love, God of wisdom, we confess that we have sought power in the wrong places.  We have craved control instead of trust, sought influence over others instead of serving them, and pursued security in ways that harm rather than heal.  We have too often responded to hurt with anger instead of grace, to fear with force instead of love.  Forgive us, O God.  Teach us your power of mercy, the strength of humility, and the courage to love—even when it costs us.  Remind us that Your kingdom is not built on conquest, but on compassion.  Renew us in Your ways, that we may live as Your faithful people.  In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the Good News, Christ is among us renewing us for life with love. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, Amen.

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. Amen.

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *We're Marching to Zion* setting by Joel Raney

\*Doxology LASST UNS EFREUEUN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*Offertory Prayer

**\*Sending** 2171 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* CHANNEL OF PEACE

1. Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

in giving of ourselves that we receive,

and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

\*Benediction 130, *God will take care of you*

Be not dismayed whate’er betide,

God will take care of you;

Beneath his wings of love abide,

God will take care of you.

God will take care of you,

through every day, o'er all the way;

he will take care of you,

God will take care of you.

Postlude *Toccatina*

James Southbridge

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible!

Liturgist: John Neve

Stephen Minister: Georgia Carmichael

Golf Cart Drive: Roger Erikson

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“Love Devine, All Loves Excelling”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1747

“God Will Take Care of You”

Words: Civilla D Martin, 1904

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Words: Prayer of St Francis; adapt. By Sebastian Temple (Matt. 6:12-15)

If you have any questions, please call the office: 520.327.1116 or

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