

# *Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*



*February 23, 2025  
10:00 am  
St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus*



New to St. Paul's? We're so glad you're here!  
Fill out this form so we can get to know you better!

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 23, 2025*

*Musician: Paul Storfer*

*Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness*

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God,
- C 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 lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.
- P 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.
- C Amen.

*Opening Hymn: WOV 735*

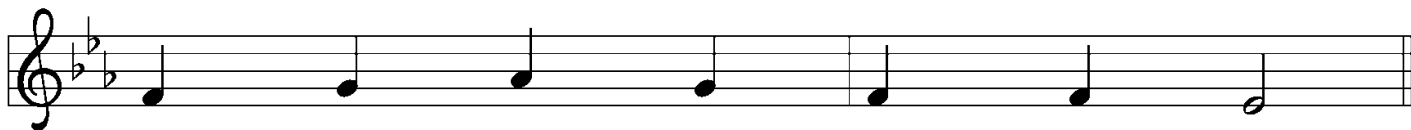
## God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the  
2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our  
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we  
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful  
5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,  
world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing  
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;  
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:  
be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.  
all the fail - ures we con - fess.  
set us free and grant us peace.  
make us stron - ger, give us faith.  
God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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### *Apostolic Greeting*

**P** The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

### *Prayer of the Day*

P 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.

### *Children's Time*

#### *First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

*Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 (read responsively)*

*The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)*

- A Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.  
C For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.  
A Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.  
C Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.  
A Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.  
C The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.  
A Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.  
C Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.  
A For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.  
C In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.  
A But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.  
C But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.  
A 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.  
A This is the Word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation  
*Celtic Alleluia*



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the Sixth Chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: Luke 6:27-38***

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

***Sermon***



## Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1774–1836, adapt.

## *Apostle's Creed*

**A** Let's join to proclaim our faith using the Apostles' Creed:

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

## *Prayer's of the Church*

**A** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

**C** hear our prayer.

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

**C** Amen.

## *Offering Music and Prayer*

### *Ways to Give to St. Paul's:*

Options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

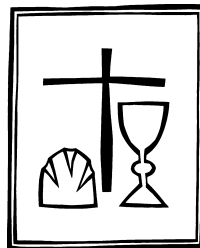
- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** Please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** The St. Paul's website contains a link to Online Giving. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

QR Code:



P Let us pray.

C God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer here and in our planned giving to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.



### *Dialogue and Preface*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Words of Institution*

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### *Lord's Prayer*

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C 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

***Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all. Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the Assisting Minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.***

### ***Communion Blessing***

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
- C Amen.

### ***Prayer After Communion***

- P 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.

### ***Benediction***

- P And now as you go on your way, may our Lord Jesus go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...
- C Amen

***Closing Hymn: LBW 495 (on the following page)***

### ***Sharing the Peace and Sending***

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

## Lead On, O King Eternal!



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;  
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,  
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917

Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: February 23-March 2, 2025

\* Unless otherwise noted, all activities will take place at the Eggertsville Campus \*

- Sunday:** 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum  
9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC  
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Sunday School  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC
- Monday:** 4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share  
5:30-9:00 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study  
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main (NA)  
7:00-9:00 pm: Lutheran Chorale Rehearsal
- Wednesday:** 6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group  
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
- Friday:** 7:00-8:30 pm: No Meeting Today: Traveling and Trudging  
8:00 pm-1:00 am: Lutheran Youth Event
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC  
5:00 pm: Worship and Communion at AC followed by Family Fun Night
- Sunday:** 9:00-9:45 am: Adult Forum  
9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC  
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV  
10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Sunday School  
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

*Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Richard Elliott*

**Deacons:** 2/23: John Schunak; 3/2:

**Ushers:** 2/23: Lonny Walter & Gerry Keppel; 3/2: Bob & Karen Brown

**Prayer List:** *In our congregational and extended family: Dawn Matuszak; Cindy Milazzo-Schwartz; Bob O'Brian (Mark O'Brian's brother); Diane Millace; Aaron Torres (friend of Sandy Hoehn); Charles Herschlag; Kathy Greenawalt; Gloria Chaves (Betty Aprile's sister); Jim and Sue Gustafson; Sue Epstein; Rosemond Johnson*

***Prayer List: Shut-Ins (\* indicates new names or changes added this week)***

Ruth Blank: Scofield Residence, 3333 Elmwood Avenue, #121, Buffalo, NY 14217

Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D110, 5958 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Jan Isaacs: 6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004

Dave Lampe: 829 N Hurff Drive, Elmwood, IL 61529

Elaine Masman: Heathwood Assisted Living, 815 Hopkins, Room 251, Williamsville, NY 14221

Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 245 Bassett Road, #54, Williamsville, NY 14221

Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221

David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051

***PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS***

***In-Person Worship:*** St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Campus, 5125 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, 14226. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

***Church Unleashed:*** If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

***Prayer Team Ministry:*** Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: [Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com)

***Nursery/Nursing Mom's Room:*** Located downstairs by the Sunday School room. There is a wall TV for streaming the Sunday worship service. Babies 0-24 months are welcome in the nursery and must be monitored by their parent.

***Daily Bread Food Truck:*** The 2024 Monday Meal Share is underway each Monday from 4:15-5:15 pm. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or [dailybread4007@gmail.com](mailto:dailybread4007@gmail.com).

***NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS***

***Tigers Den Food Pantry:*** The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, is associated with St. Paul's Amherst Campus, or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for February are: Thursday 2/27 from 3:00-6:30 pm. Donations for February are: pasta and juice (bottles or cartons).



***Parking Lot Issue:*** Please do not park near the dumpsters at the far end of the parking lot on Mondays or Tuesdays. The trash company attempted to pick up the trash in the dumpsters on Tuesday, but could not because of parked cars.



***March 5: Ash Wednesday: Worship at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm***

***Sunday, March 9: Lent Kick-Off Potluck following 10:00 am worship service. Bring a dish to share. Sign-up sheet in Gathering Area***

***Wednesday, March 12-April 9: 12:00 pm: Soup and Psalms. Sign-up in the Gathering Area if you can bring soup to share.***



*+ St. Paul's Mission +*

*To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,  
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

**St. Paul's Congregation Council**

*President: Robert Simpson*

*Vice-President: Tim Johnson*

*Treasurer: William Niblock*

*Secretary: Scott Vahue*

*Bob Brown    David Dahlberg    Susan Epstein*

*Sara Hannon    Janet Schmidt    Vanessa Solomon    Barbara Walter*

**Pastoral Leaders**

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: [steve@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:steve@stpaulseggertsville.com)*

*Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: [kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com)*

**Directors of Music:** *Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)*

**Christian Education Coordinator:** *June Piette*

**Youth Ministry:** *Jordan Dywan*

**Digital Ministry:** *Andrew Gruszka*

**Facilities Manager:** *Jeff Stein*

**Church Office Staff**

*Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary*

*E-mail: [office@stpaulseggertsville.com](mailto:office@stpaulseggertsville.com)*

*Telephone: (716) 835-0407*

*Website: [www.stpaulseggertsville.com](http://www.stpaulseggertsville.com)*

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