

Readings + 7th Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 7 C + February 23, 2025

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen

First Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ 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; God 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 Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalmody Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

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

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

Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart’s desire.

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

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

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

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

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

In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

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

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

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.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Paul writes: ³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as God has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first human was from the earth, made of dust; the second human is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as is one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear family, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the reign of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Holy Gospel Luke 6:27-38 (+39-49)

Both Matthew and Luke tell these radical words of Jesus that completely change how people can live together. Both are similar, Luke arranges things a little differently, and he's the only one with verse 38.

Jesus said, ²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat 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 asks of you; and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back 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 expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, 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, who 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.”

The next verses are appointed for Lect. 8 C, which we very rarely hear. Again, Luke and Matthew are similar, but only Luke has the parable of the blind. (Both versions of the house on a rock saying fall between Lect. 8 and 9 and are rarely read.)

³⁹ Jesus also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.

⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. ⁴⁸ That one is like a person building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it quickly collapsed, and great was the ruin of that house.”