

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Feb. 21-26, '22

Mon Genesis 45:3-15 Joseph understood God's strengths better than we do sometimes—that God can turn handicaps into blessings both for us and for others. Remember—God had leveraged Joseph from slavery into becoming the P.M. of Egypt. Then God sent the famine to rescue Joseph's family. Then God sponsored the miracle of making Joseph able to forgive his brothers for what they had done to him years earlier; then the miracle of changing villains into champions who loved and protected Benjamin, Joseph's little brother.

Tues Luke 6:27-38 It's our human nature to **not** love our enemies, to **not** bless those who curse us, to **not** pray for those who mistreat us, etc., etc. God understands this problem we have with ourselves, so He reaches down into our hearts to forge an attitude that mirrors His own pitying love for derelicts (35-36). Hearts can be changed by God's gracious, loving kindness into generous, charitable hearts that dispense His blessings to others (37-38).

Wed Romans 12:14-21 Since God wants to bring everyone to heaven, He lets us help along the way (14-15), reaching out to others by putting ourselves in second place (16), surrendering our own interests for the sake of others (18-19), and being so generous that it embarrasses others (20). In the struggles of life, goodness outclasses and supersedes evil every day, thank God (21).

Thurs Genesis 50:15-22 The drama of Jacob/Joseph's life is drawing to a close as the curtain rises on this scene. All ends well—partly because the brothers are repentant and partly because they ask to be forgiven for the evil they had done to Joseph decades earlier—but mostly because Joseph understood what God had been doing all along: He was turning their evil into good (20). God is good, gracious, forgiving—and also lovingly painstaking.

Fri Luke 6:43-45 We understand God's business better when it's explained with earthly illustrations. A tree is recognizable by its fruit, and it's the same with people (43-44). A businessman who treats his customers with dignity and generosity is a good businessman; the fellow who cheats or defrauds his clients is a swindler because he was born that way. We are what we are until God changes us—from the inside out. Thank You, Holy Spirit!

Sat 2 Corinthians 2:6-11 It may seem strange to us that the Christians in Corinth didn't know what to do about a fellow-member who repented of his sex sins. Was it OK to forgive him and welcome him back into the fold? YES! Since God forgave him for Jesus' sake, Christians should assure him of their forgiveness, too. Otherwise, the repentant sinner will be tempted to despair and revert back to Satan (7).

February 20, 2022
Epiphany 7



Love
YOUR ENEMIES



Faith

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Opening Hymn: TLH #34:1-2 "My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ Who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ Amen.

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

The Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

C ♪ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant Depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation; Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, A Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C ♪ Amen, amen, a – men.

Closing Hymn: WS #742 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Announcements

Pastor Visits! If there is a time this week that would work for you to have Pastor drop by for a visit to get to know you and your family better, please speak with him after the service!

2/23 – Bible Class @9:30/Elders @10:30 | 2/24 Garden View @10:30

February 13 Offerings:	\$ 980.00
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,607.69
General Fund Balance	\$22,893.39
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$19,391.45
Total Cash All Funds	\$58,323.22

P The Lord be with you.

C *♩* **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C *♩* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, Our God.

C *♩* **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should, at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

C *♩* **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.**

The Words of Institution *Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C *♩* **Amen.**

The Agnus Dei

Latin phrase meaning, "Lamb of God."

C *♩* **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God That takest away the sin of the world. Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, That takest away the sin of the world. Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

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The Order of Holy Communion



The Introit

Ps. 37:1-5, 7

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way.

C **Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!**

P For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

C **Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

P Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

C **Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH 237:1

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

C *♩* **All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *♩* **Amen.**

✠ Scripture Readings ✠

Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil

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for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Genesis 45:3-8a, 15

And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And 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 yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And 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. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and
buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again
from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the
right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall
come to judge the quick and the dead.** *cont. →*

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the
Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

Hymn: TLH #349:1,2,6,7 *"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"*

✠ The Sermon ✠

Matthew 5:38-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Like Father, Like Children

The Offertory

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

**☞ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #324:1,2,6-8 *"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"*

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠