

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



Genesis 50:15-20 and Luke 6:27-38

"Doing Mercy"

**ANTECOMMUNION
7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION**

*BOLD indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE

"A Prayer for Peace"

David Maxwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

ELW #707

*THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

2 Corinthians 13:13

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.

*THE KYRIE

ELW pg. 147

*GLORY TO GOD

ELW pg. 148

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

C: 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.

WORD

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

GENESIS 50:15-20

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰**Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.

Creation : Fall : **Promise** : Exodus : Conquest : Judges: Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : **JESUS** : +Apostles : Last Day : New Creation

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

Words and Music: The Community of Taizé and Jacques Berthier © 1991, GIA Publications
Psalm Text: from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers
Tone: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources

1. Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
2. For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.
3. Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
4. Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.
5. Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

Refrain

6. The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.
7. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
8. Refrain from anger, leave rage alone. the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
9. For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land. because in you they seek
refuge

Refrain

10. In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.
11. But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.
39. The deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.
40. You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,

SECOND LESSON**1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38,42-50**

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 he 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 man, 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 man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

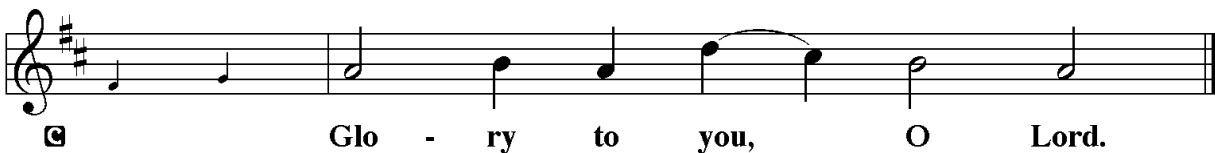
GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONJohn 6:68*

Alleluia. Lord to who shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL*LUKE 6:27-38**

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

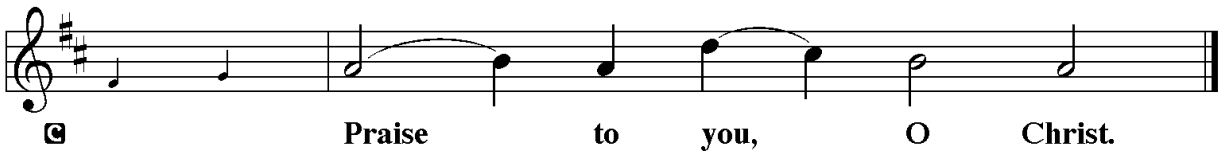
Response after the announcement:



²⁷ But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse 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 begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them 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 hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ 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. 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

“Doing Mercy”

After Israel Dies, What Happens to the Family?

The Most High is Kind to the Ungrateful and Evil!?!

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: I want revenge for myself. I choose to keep the grudge. Lord have mercy on us.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: Jesus forgives us. I have the privilege and opportunity to practice forgiveness.

So What? Family systems, family brokenness, yet Joseph chooses what path? Don’t be trapped by the past – live in wise boundaries in a broken world. Consider God’s kindness to us and be kind.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *“All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”*

ELW #835

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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 Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body

and the life + everlasting. Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Philippians 4:7

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Be Still My Soul"

Roy Hopp

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalm 51:10-1

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.***

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW #656

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"There is a Fountain"

Ar. By Don Hustad



OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given in honor of Elyse Hoffman’s Birthday by Debra and Henry Hoffman

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibschi
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Adam DeLuca
Lector.....	Kelly Andrew
Acolyte.....	Hunter Clark
Crucifer.....	Christian Mull
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Gene Weaver
Council Members of the Month.....	Perry Linkous and Seth Myers

Upcoming EVENTS



GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



LOVE OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY: The love offering for February will go to the **Backpack Weekend Food Program**. For the past 13 years Lutheran Chapel Church along with other partners have helped the BWFP provide more than 2 million meals to needy students in Gaston County. Recent studies indicate nearly 31 percent of children in Gaston County live in low-income households with nearly 16 percent of children in our county living in households without a reliable source of food to eat. At the present we at Lutheran Chapel are providing food for 10 children at Robinson Elementary and 3 children at Hawks Nest. We supply this food for \$341 per child per school year. Please consider a gift to the February Love Offering so that we can continue to provide food for these children.

SHROVE TUESDAY: The Men of the Church will be sponsoring a pancake supper on **Tuesday, March 4** at the Family Life Center beginning at 6 pm. Gluten free pancakes will be available upon request. This supper will be held in conjunction with Shrove Tuesday. Pastor Comer will have a brief presentation explaining the origin of Shrove Tuesday and its meaning.

GASTONIA LIONS CLUB: There will be a donation box beside the CAM box for used, no longer needed eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. Thank you!

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES: Please remember that we will continue to collect food for the Crisis Assistance Ministry throughout the year. You may place food in the blue collection box in the hallway near our fellowship hall and in the CAM basket in the narthex of the sanctuary. The Social Ministry team will deliver to CAM when the box is full – so keep us busy! Thank you so much!

CONCORDIA CHOIR: The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform in Charlotte at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, **March 2** at 4 p.m. and in Spartanburg at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, **March 4** at 7 p.m. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for more information.

Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, February 23	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, February 24	8:30 am	Preschool
Tuesday, February 25	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, February 26	8:30 am	Preschool
	7:00 pm	Vespers (Chapel)
Thursday, February 27	8:30 am	Preschool
	9:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
Friday, February 28	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, February 29	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Let's **PRAY**



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1, 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 6—February 23 to March 2, 2025

02/23 Morning Reading: Mark 4:1-20—Evening Reading: Numbers 5, 6
02/24 Morning Reading: Mark 4:21-41—Evening Reading: Numbers 7, 8
02/25 Morning Reading: Mark 5:1-20—Evening Reading: Numbers 9, 10, 11
02/26 Morning Reading: Mark 5:21-43—Evening Reading: Numbers 12, 13, 14
02/27 Morning Reading: Mark 6:1-29—Evening Reading: Numbers 15, 16
02/28 Morning Reading: Mark 6:30-56—Evening Reading: Numbers 17, 18, 19
02/29 Morning Reading: Mark 7:1-13—Evening Reading: Numbers 20, 21, 22
03/01 Morning Reading: Mark 7:14-37—Evening Reading: Numbers 23, 24 25
03/02 Morning Reading: Mark 8:1-21—Evening Reading: Numbers 26, 27

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, Ron Behringer, Steve Bell, Pauline Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Miles Carpenter, Kathy Finch, Baker Hampton, Nancy Homovich, Barbara Peacock, Trish Ratchford, Doug Rhyne, Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Gene & **Myra Weaver**.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: John Austin, Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Peggy Button, **Debra Carpenter**, Jeff Cobb, Zandra Chavis, Doris Coggins, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jerry Green, Jennifer Hart, Kirk Jordan, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Rita Pasour, Parks Peak, Bill Riddle, Morgan Rosser, family and friends of Fred Sanders, Dorothy Slessman, “Spike” Stevens, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Becky Van Dyke, Jimmy Watlington, and recovery in the North Carolina mountains.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK’S LESSONS

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Evening Prayer Service

Psalm 59 “*Attempted Murder*”

Thursday, February 27 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Genesis 50:15-20 “*Doing Mercy*”

Sunday, March 2 ~ Holy Communion

Exodus 3:1-6 and Luke 9:28-43 “*Transfiguration of our Lord 2025*”

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won-drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood

as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -

men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,

bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of

and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor
 grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

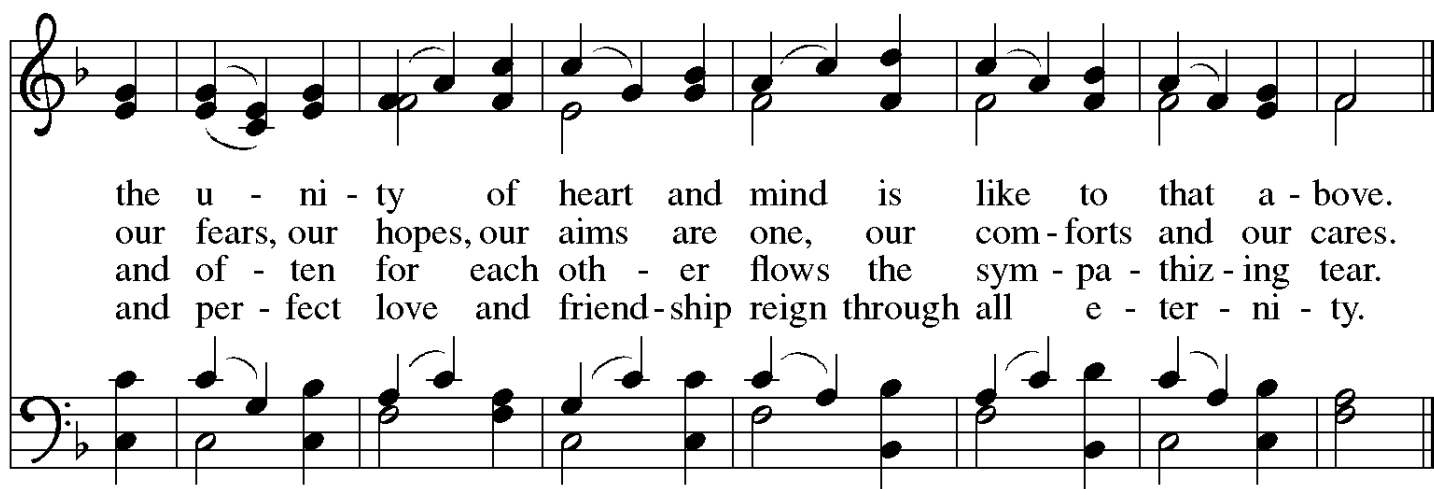
Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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Blest Be the Tie That Binds



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, 1773–1836, adapt.