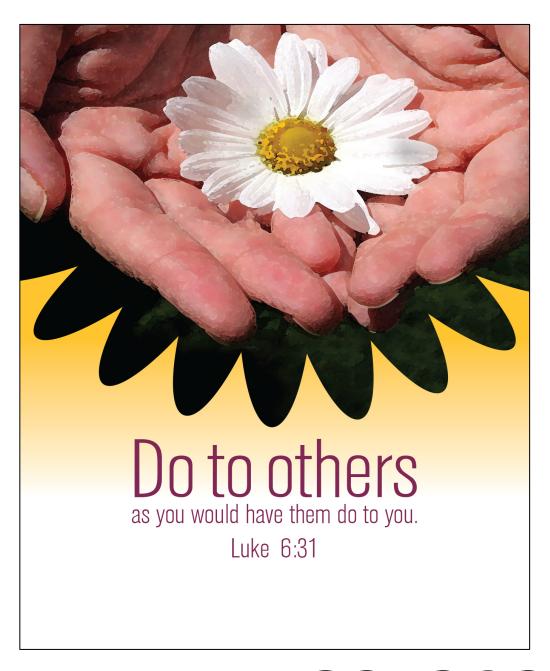
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



FEBRUARY 23, 2025

WELCOME

We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME.
If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.
Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon,
Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin. Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.

We prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

The Jesus Way
Wickham/CCLI #7217888

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

We turn to face the cross at the entrance of the sanctuary. As broken children, we begin worship by acknowledging our sin and asking for God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, we confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

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.

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. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. *Amen*.

As fully forgiven children of God, turn and face the altar as the cross passes you.

HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

Scholtes/CCLI #26997



GREETING

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

And also with you.







- For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im passioned re sponse to the
- For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the





this ho - ly house, for all who we may live out truth and life and for love, for our nour-ish our souls . . . with your

wor-ship and praise, jus-tice and grace, work and our play, bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord,

let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

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.

We sit.

THE WORD

Genesis 45:3-11,15

A reading from Genesis.

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; he 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 he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, teaching us the way. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 37:1-11,39-40

We read responsively.

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.
- ⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.
 - 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,

the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

- ⁸ Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; 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.
 - 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 But 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, because in you they seek refuge.

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

- 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.

Word of God, teaching us the way. *Thanks be to God*.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SB153820



Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

love – not just on Valentine's Day

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

We stand.

HYMN

10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)

Redman/CCLI #6016351

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes
Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger Your name is great and Your heart is kind For all Your goodness I will keep on singing Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

And on that day when my strength is failing The end draws near and my time has come Still my soul will sing Your praise unending Ten thousand years and then forevermore Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your holy name Worship Your holy name. Lord, I'll worship Your holy name

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

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

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

We sit.

OFFERING

We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. Friendship pads have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.

ANTHEM

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Rowan/OneLicense #101806

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Anonymous/Public Domain



OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star, he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son, in the miracle of water turned to wine, he revealed your glory.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

We proclaim the mystery of faith. *Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Make your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the side aisles to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second challis of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the center aisle. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. If this is the first Sunday of the month, we also offer communion at the rail. On this Sunday, you may continue through the side doors and an usher will guide you to the altar to receive communion.

Music

Communion Medley

Price

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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, Amen.

THE SENDING

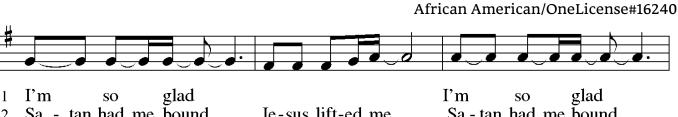
BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

HYMN

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



- 2 Sa tan had me bound, Je-sus lift-ed me. 3 When I was in trou - ble,
- Sa tan had me bound, When I was in trou - ble,





As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING The Blessing



SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world.

We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our anniversary by Marion and Cyndi Leaphart.



Mt Hermon Travelers

There are <u>still seats available</u> for our first event on March 15th. This will be a day trip to Greenville SC for lunch and then to "The Sound of Music" production presented by Bob Jones University at 2 PM. Cost is \$40

per person. If you are interested, please contact Frank Bouknight.

Coffee, Food, and Fellowship

Care Team will be hosting a
Coffee, Food, and Fellowship on
March 2nd in the fellowship hall
following worship service to
honor our new members
Rick & Debbie Duval,
Eddie & Amanda Robinette,
Roberta Smith, office admin.
Please note that we will not have
Sunday School classes on March 2



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

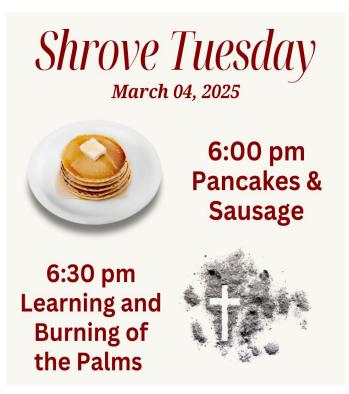
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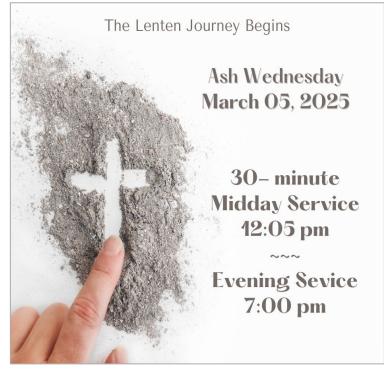
In person attendance 73 +live stream 108 = 181

Current & Benevolent	Received	\$3,326.94
Building Fund	Received	\$407.00
Building Improvement	Received	\$145.00

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In memory of Danni Martin's grandmother, Dolly Camas, by Ryan & Jennifer Price





SERVING IN WORSHIP

	Today	Next Sunday
Ushers:	Jamie Addison	Ronnie Fulmer
	Dan Cooper	Ricky Bouknight
Crucifer:	Sam Kon	Brayden Rutherford
Acolyte:	Hayden Eargle	Dylan Whitaker
Lector:	Jennifer Miller	Jim Whitaker
Communion Assts:	Sam Koon	Brayden Rutherford
	Hayden Eargle	Dylan Whitaker
	Joe Koon	Sheila Eargle
	Mary Koon	Hayden Eargle Connor Eargle
	Jennifer Miller	Ryan Price Terry Swygert
Audio:	Brandon Donaldson	Breanna Metze
Video:	Marie Gardner	Breanna Metze
Nursery:	Leah Rawl	Melanie Jackson
	Brittany Allen	Katie Donaldson
Flowers:	Marion & Cyndi Leaphart	Sheila Frame

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

<u>COUNCIL REP:</u> Sheila Eargle <u>ALTAR GUILD:</u> Jennifer Price

TABULATORS: Ronnie Fulmer, Mary Price

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Dennis Thurman, Susan Busby

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MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, Asbury Arms Lauvenia Butts, Lakeside Place Doris Carver, Presby Home Georgianna Gray, home James Hallman, Lakeside Place Marie Kleckley, Lex Ext Care

Gloria Mathias, home Jane Sexton, Phoenix Asst Living Jean Shealy, Lakeside Place Cyndi Thurman, Sedgewood Linda Waters-Hamilton, home Bobby Carver, Presby Home

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Karly AddyBonnie BouknightChris CarrollRandy ClarkDebbie DuvalDebbie FulmerMichelle GanttJoye HaygoodMary Frances Sease

Jim Whitaker

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, friend of Danny Scott Stetson Cooper, grandson of Dan Cooper Paula Miller, friend of Brittany Allen Dawn McIlwain-Merck, friend of Robin Ellisor John Catoe, family of the Ellisors Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),

friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, sister of Earl Sease
Mrs. Cruz, teacher of Abbey Carroll
Phil Dennis, brother of Lavonne Roof
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,

friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, aunt of Courtney Bucknam
Sarah Harmon, friend of Courtney Bucknam
Jaimie Womack, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Cynthia Rabon, friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price
Blase Rhine,

grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight Cynthia Mallard,

friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan Jeslyn, friend of Scarlett Bryant Tom Shaul, friend of the Kinard Family Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*Bryce McKelvey, *friend of Regan Gross*Max Schronce,

friend of the David & Scottie Marsh Faye McCartha, mother of Debra Butts Hayes Wingard,

grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper
Robbie Rector, friend Jennifer Miller
Bill Geddings, father of Allison Swygert
Jane Baxley, cousin of Michelle Gantt
Mark King, coworker of Michelle Gantt
Joyce Davis, grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik
Will & Summer Satcher,

friend of Courtney Bucknam

Dorothy Collins, friend of Ryan Price
Lauren Addy, friend of Kathy Cooper and Metzes
Jodi Harper, friend of Erin Rose
Sam Lockridge, friend of Scottie Marsh
Mary Duffie, mother of Alyson Price
Thelma Moyer, mother of Diane Boulware
Michael Tucker, friend of Michelle Gantt
Kaiden Howell, friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik



www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze. Pastor Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music* 803.951.3784

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com Music@WeAreMtHermon.com Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

Roberta Smith. Administrative Asst

803.240.3143 cell

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, President Sheila Eargle, Secretary

Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, Financial Secretary

Ronnie Fulmer, Vice President Frank Bouknight, Treasurer Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, Sextons

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, February 23rd

9:00 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

11:15 am Children's Choir

11:30 am CR: Worship Team

3:00 pm Confirmation

Tuesday, February 25th

6:30 pm GR: Support Team

6:30 pm Life Group at Jacksons

Wednesday, February 26th

Meals on Wheels: Parker & Diane Boulware

9:00 am Food Pantry

(David & Debra Butts, Rick & Debbie Duval)

12:05 pm OneBody Worship

6:00 pm Handbells

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, March 1st

9:00 am Food Pantry (DJ Plummer & Youth)