



West End  
presbyterian church

# WEPC Lectionary Project: Union with Christ

In this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of West End Presbyterian Church, we are using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

## WEPC Weekly Readings

To subscribe to a daily email of these readings, register online at [wepc.org/lectionary](http://wepc.org/lectionary).

### February 24, 2019 | Seventh Sunday After the Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*Joseph Forgives His Brothers*

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

*Those Who Wait for the LORD Shall Inherit the Land*

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*Sown Perishable, Raised Imperishable*

Luke 6:27-38

*Love Your Enemies*

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### Reflection on SUN, February 24

#### Monday

Genesis 33:1-17

*Jacob & Esau Reconcile*

I Corinthians 11:2-16

*Reconciled Lives in the Church*

#### Tuesday

I Samuel 24:1-22

*David Spares Saul's Life*

I Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33

*Examine & Discern*

#### Wednesday

Leviticus 5:1-13

*The Cost of Forgiveness*

Luke 17:1-4

*The Scope of Forgiveness*

#### Daily

Psalms 38

*Reconciled to God*

### Preparation for SUN, March 3

#### Thursday

Deuteronomy 9:1-5

*The LORD Swore to Your Fathers*

Acts 3:11-16

*The God of Our Fathers Glorified Jesus*

#### Friday

Deuteronomy 9:6-14

*You Provoked the LORD to Wrath*

Acts 10:1-8

*The Vision of Cornelius*

#### Saturday

Deuteronomy 9:15-24

*The Mountain Was Burning With Fire*

Luke 10:21-24

*Blessed Are The Eyes That See What You See*

#### Daily

Psalms 99

*The LORD Answered Them*

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

After Jacob stole Esau's birthright and blessing, Rebekah, their mother, tells Jacob, "Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you." I understand Esau.

I don't understand how Joseph can forgive his brothers and not use his power as a prince in Egypt to kill them.

But more than that, I cannot understand how God in Christ can forgive me and not relish in my undoing.

Warmly,  
Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM  
Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

### **Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is a time that helps us to remember Jesus as the long awaited Hebrew Messiah and His mission to the nations. Epiphany has a particular focus on Jesus as the Light of the World and "God with us," and the Church's role in proclaiming that Jesus is Lord.

### **GOD SENT ME**

"One day, God would send another Prince, a young Prince whose heart would break. Like Joseph, he would leave his home and his Father. His brothers would hate him and want him dead. He would be sold for pieces of silver. He would be punished even though he had done nothing wrong. But God would use everything that happened to this young Prince – even the bad things – to do something good: to forgive the sins of the whole world."

– *Sally Lloyd-Jones, on the account of Joseph, in the Book of Genesis*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 55:2-3*

### **The First Word**

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to Me;  
hear, that your soul may live.

## INVOCATION

# SONG OF ADORATION

## FATHER, LONG BEFORE CREATION

1. Father, long before creation  
Thou hadst chosen us in love,  
And that love so deep, so moving,  
Draws us close to Christ above.  
Still it keeps us, still it keeps us.  
Firmly fixed in Christ alone.

2. Though the world may change its fashion,  
Yet our God is e'er the same;  
His compassion and His covenant  
Through all ages will remain.  
God's own children, God's own children  
Must forever praise His name.

3. God's compassion is my story,  
Is my boasting all the day;  
Mercy free and never failing  
Moves my will, directs my way.  
God so loved us, God so loved us  
That His only Son He gave.

4. Loving Father now before Thee  
We will ever praise Thy love,  
And our songs will sound unceasing  
'Til we reach our home above,  
Giving glory, giving glory  
To our God and to the Lamb.

*"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God." – Psalm 90:2*

*Text: Francis Johnson (1951) Tune: Andrew Osenga ©2005 The Velvet Eagle Sings Used by permission. CCLI #: 708363*

## Welcome

*Visitors, we are glad you are here.*

*Following the service, please join Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.*

## New Testament Reading

*1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50*

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

# MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 37  
Of David.*

Fret not yourself because of evildoers;  
be not envious of wrongdoers!  
For they will soon fade like the grass  
and wither like the green herb.

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

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

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

**He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.**

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!

**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!  
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**

For the evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

**In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;  
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.**

But the meek shall inherit the land  
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;  
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.**

The Lord helps them and delivers them;  
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

*Pray for Our Church, Our City, and the World. This week:*

- For West End Presbyterian Church: That God would grant us faith to know that He is good, that He provides, and that He forgives sin. We are His people, renewed in His image.
- For Metropolitan Richmond: That God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. For heathy economic development that is a blessing to the common welfare of Metro Richmond. For all businesses, employers, and employees. For the unemployed.
- For Cities. For Matt & Anna Shenk serving with CRU City Life RVA. For Marriages. For Dave & Mary Peery serving with CRU Family Life.

# OFFERING

*If you missed today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them.*

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

# SONG OF PRAISE

## BY THY MERCY

1. Jesus, Lord of life and glory,  
Bend from Heav'n Thy gracious ear;  
While our waiting souls adore Thee,  
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:

*By Thy mercy, O deliver us,  
good Lord, good Lord.*

*By Thy mercy, O deliver us,  
good Lord, good Lord.*

2. From the depth of nature's blindness,  
From the hardening power of sin,  
From all malice and unkindness,  
From the pride that lurks within.

3. When the world around is smiling,  
In the time of wealth and ease,  
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,  
In the day of health and peace.

4. In the solemn hour of dying,  
In the awe-ful judgment day,  
May our souls, on Thee relying,  
Find Thee still our Rock and Stay.

*“The LORD is my rock,  
and my fortress, and my  
deliverer.” – II Samuel 22:2*

*Text: James Cummins (1839)  
Tune: Greg Thompson (2004)  
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# CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 AM)

*During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship. See p.14 for more information.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Genesis 45:3-11, 15*

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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 tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’...

<sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

## Sermon

*A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at [wepc.org/sermons](http://wepc.org/sermons).*



# PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

*Luke 22: 7-8, 14-20, 29-30*

When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. And He said to them,

"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

"And I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom."

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## **Confession & Encouragement**

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

**O LORD, our God who brought His people out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery and by Christ delivered us from sin, You have been faithful to keep all the promises of Your covenant. But we, O LORD, have been a stiff-necked people who love unfaithfulness.**

**We have loved other gods before You and become their servants.**

**We have not worshipped You in spirit and in truth,  
and so we have mocked Your glory.**

**We have used Your name in vain  
and profaned Your reputation on earth.**

**We have desecrated Your Sabbath  
because we have not trusted You to give us rest.**

**We have not honored our fathers and mothers,  
and have proved ourselves rebels.**

**We have hated our neighbors and murdered them in our hearts.**

**We have made adulterers of ourselves in the lust of our eyes  
or in the deeds of our flesh.**

**We have stolen honor and wealth and privileges that are not ours.**

**We have lied and falsely accused for we love gossip more than truth.**

**We have coveted blessings which You wisely and righteously  
gave to others.**

**O LORD, have mercy on us for we have not kept Your law.**

*Silent Confession*

# WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*Colossians 1:12-14*

Give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

*Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings.  
All bread is gluten-free.*

*Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.*

*If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.*

*Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.*

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GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

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## SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

### O COME TO THE ALTAR

Are you hurting and broken within?  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling!  
Have you come to the end of yourself?  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling!

*O come to the altar,  
The Father's arms are open wide!  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes—  
Come today there's no reason to wait,  
Jesus is calling!  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,  
From the ashes a new life is born—  
Jesus is calling!

*Oh what a Savior, isn't he wonderful?  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all!  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!*

*"I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow." –Jeremiah 31:13*  
Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joyce © 2015 Elevation Worship Used by permission. CCLI: 708363

## LET US LOVE AND SING AND WONDER

1. Let us love and sing and wonder,  
Let us praise the Savior's name!  
He has hushed the Law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame:  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has brought us nigh to God.

2. Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
Pitied us when enemies,  
Called us by His grace, and taught us,  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes:  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He has washed us with His blood,  
He presents our souls to God.

3. Let us sing though fierce temptation  
Threatens hard to bear us down,  
For the Lord, our strong salvation  
Holds in view the conqu'ror's crown.  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
Soon will bring us home to God.

4. Let us wonder; grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store;  
When through grace in Christ our trust is,  
Justice smiles and asks no more:  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
He Who washed us with His blood,  
Has secured our way to God.

5. Let us praise, and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high:  
Here they trusted Him before us,  
Now their praises fill the sky:  
You have washed us with Your blood,  
You have washed us with Your blood,  
You have washed us with Your blood,  
You are worthy Lamb of God!

*"To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins  
by His blood... to Him be glory and power for ever  
and ever!" – Revelation 19:12*

Text: John Newton (1774) Music: Laura Taylor  
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## GOD WHO SAVES

There is life in the blood of the Lamb who was slain;  
There is power, there is power in His name;  
There is love pouring out of the wounds that were made;  
Pouring out, pouring over our shame:

*So praise the God who saves!  
Praise the God who bled!  
Praise the God who was nailed to a tree  
And wore our sins upon His head!*

There is truth in His body, raised that third day;  
There is joy in a stone rolled away;  
There is hope pouring out of the tomb where He lay;  
Pouring out, pouring over the grave:

*"For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name." – Psalm 18:49*  
Aaron Senseman © 2001 Stuntman Music Used by permission. CCLI #: 706383

# DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures  
here below Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise  
Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."  
– Psalm 150:6*

*Text: Thomas Ken (1709)  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH  
(Bourgeois, 1551)*

**What does "doxology" mean?** It's a word derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

# BENEDICTION

## The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

*After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.*

*Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Kevin Shaffer, along with Becca Wethered, Tiffanie Chan, Tyler Pease, Jamison Taggart, and Gordon Collier.*