

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

23 FEBRUARY 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a congregation where music, liturgy, and prayer
reflect the richness of the global church.*

We gather each week for worship that is both firmly rooted in the ancient forms and traditions of Christian liturgy and attuned to contemporary concerns. We encounter the good news of Jesus in scripture, in song, in the sacraments, and in the gathered community. The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle shapes our weekly worship, leading us to pray for and sing songs from different parts of the world.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Reader: Nina Kiderlin

Altar care: Mee Ji

Assisting ministers: Wenona Christie Arndt, Elisabeth Benn,
Rumiko Jaussi, Nyambura Njoroge

Ushers: Nashipai Nain'gola, Queen King'ori

Offering counters: May Chin Long, Njoroge Njuguna

Flowers: Aleida Auld

Coffee hour: Neighborhood Group E

Videographers: Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

*Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way
and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany + 23 February 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

Because trusting God is not automatic,
we gather together to gain courage and strength.
We hear again God's word, reaching toward us,
promising that God's mercy will not fail,
assuring us that wickedness will not prevail,
calling us to a love we cannot easily obey.
We form again the spiritual body of Christ,
resurrected in our midst
as we sing and listen and pray,
finding, in the praise of God, a way ahead.

Hymn

If you but trust in God to guide you

Georg Neumark. English, Catherine Winkworth, alt. Georg Neumark: Germany 1657

1. If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle hand through
 2. What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less an - ger
 3. The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and qui - et -
 4. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you'll find that God is there be - side you
 ness dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's keep - ing,
 con - tent. We rest in God's good will un - fold - ing,
 faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de - serv - ing,

when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust, then, in God's un -
 in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who took for
 what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has cho - sen
 you'll find God's pro - mise true to be. This is our con - fi -

chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 you a cross will bring you safe through ev - ery loss.
 us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 dence in - deed: God ne - ver fails in time of need.

Psalm 37

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

Take delight in the Lord,
who will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in God, who will act,
who will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord,
and wait patiently for God;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
Do not fret over those who carry out evil devices.
Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Antiphon

Wait for the Lord

Jacques Bertier: Taizé Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord be strong, take heart!

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place,
they will not be there.

***But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight in abundant prosperity.***

The wicked plot against the righteous,
and gnash their teeth at them;

***but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for God sees that their day is coming.***

The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to kill those who walk uprightly;
their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.

Better is a little that the righteous person has
than the abundance of many wicked.

For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.

***The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
and their heritage will abide for ever;
they are not put to shame in evil times,
in the days of famine they have abundance.***

But the wicked perish,
and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.

The wicked borrow, and do not pay back,
***but the righteous are generous and keep giving;
for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land,***
but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
when God delights in our way;
***though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.***

Antiphon

Wait for the Lord

I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

for the Lord holds us by the hand

They are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.

for the Lord holds us by the hand

Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide for ever.

For the Lord loves justice;

God will not forsake the faithful ones.

for the Lord holds us by the hand

The righteous shall be kept safe for ever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

The righteous shall inherit the land, and live in it for ever.

*The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.*

*The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip.*

The wicked watch for the righteous,
and seek to kill them.

*The Lord will not abandon the righteous to the power of the wicked,
or let them be condemned when they are brought to trial.*

Wait for the Lord, and keep to God's way,
and God will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on the destruction of the wicked.

Antiphon

Wait for the Lord

I have seen the wicked oppressing,
and towering like a cedar of Lebanon.
Again I passed by, and they were no more;
though I sought them, they could not be found.

Mark the blameless, and behold the upright,
for there is posterity for the peaceable.

But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the posterity of the wicked shall be cut off.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
who is their refuge in the time of trouble.

*The Lord helps them and rescues them;
The Lord rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in God.*

Antiphon

Wait for the Lord

Prayer

Kyrie

adapted from the Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert

p Have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. Have mer - cy Christ, have mer - cy.

mf Your word can make us ho - ly. Your word can set us lov - ing.

p Your word can free from sin and death. On us have mer - cy, Lord.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is marked *p* (piano) and the second and third systems are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line of each system.

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Canta mio cuore

Ferruccio Corsani: Italy

Can - ta mio cuo - re tut - ta la tua gio - ia, al - le -
Sing, my heart; sing the joy that dwells with - in you. Al - le

lu - ia! Dio cac - cia via pa - u - ra ed a - ma - rez - za,
lu - ia! God ov - er comes our bit - ter - ness and wor - ries,

fa in noi bril - lar fi - du - cia ed al - le - grez - za:
so we can shine with con - fi - dence and hap - pi - ness.

Can - ta mio cuo - re tut - ta la tua gio - ia,
Sing, my heart; sing the joy that dwells with - in you.

can - ta mio cuo - re, al - le - lu - ia!
Sing, all my heart. Sing al - le - lu - ia!

English, Terry MacArthur

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gospel Acclamation

Lumière de Dieu

Communauté de Grandchamp: Switzerland



Lu - miè - re de Dieu, in - on - de la ter - re, vi -
Come light, light of God, give light to cre - a - tion, en -

si - te nos cœurs et de - meure a - vec nous.
light - en our hearts and re - main with your world.

© Communauté de Grandchamp.

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 6.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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.

“Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 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. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Lumière de Dieu

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

Your ways are not our own

Lavon Bayler

Cantica Laudis: Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb

1. Your ways are not our own, O gra - cious God most high,
2. Christ teach - es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,
3. Yet, we can - not ex - cuse a - buse in an - y form,
4. How shall we show your love, your par - don to be - lieve?
5. For - give - ness is our joy, re - ceiv - ing, giv - ing, too.

yet we would fol - low in your paths and on your love re - ly.
to turn the oth - er cheek when struck, at - tack - ers to dis - arm.
for all are chil - dren of your care, and love must be our norm.
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re - ceive.
Keep us from judg - ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

English © 1988 Pilgrim Press.

Welcoming New Members

Affirmation of Faith

*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 again to judge the living and the dead.
I 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.***

Sisters and brothers, you have made public profession of your faith.
I ask you, together with the people of God gathered in this place:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant

God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ

through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another
in your life in Christ?

We do and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray. . .

Amen.

Acclamation

Lumière de Dieu

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gathering of Gifts

Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.

*You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag,
by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.*

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Gathering of Gifts

Schwerter zu Pflugscharen

Choir

Tuba, Koko Taylor

German after Isaiah 2:1-5. English, Terry MacArthur

Music, Torsten Laux: Germany

*Turn swords into innocent plowshares to bring forth peace in the world.
Make all weapons useless dummies to bring peace for all the world, says God.*

Offertory **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

Thomas Ken: England, 1627-1711

Louis Bourgeois: Geneva

Musical score for 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow'. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.'

Great Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

Musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving'. The score is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 God thanks and praise.**'

Preface

Sanctus

You are holy

Samba

Per Harling: Sweden

Du är he - lig, Du är hel. Du är all - tid myck - et mer,
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, Du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl sig - nad va - re Du, Som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

Väl sig - nan - de vår jord, Blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

Part 2

Du är he - lig, Du är hel - het, Du är när - het,
You are ho - ly, You are whole - ness, you are pre - sent,

He - la kos - mos lo - var Dig! Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si -
Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord! Sing Ho - san - na in the

an - na! Ho - si - an - na! Ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
high - est. Sing Ho - san - na. Sing Ho - san - na to God.

First time unison. Second time women start at the beginning while the men start at Part 2.

Swedish, English and Music © Per Harling, Sweden

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

At this table we remember the love of Jesus Christ. With this bread and wine love fills us up so we become the body and blood of Christ. We proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Christ, Agneau de Dieu

Guy Bovet: Switzerland



Christ, A - gneau de Dieu, qui ô - tes le pé - ché du mon - de,
Christ, O Lamb of God, the sins of the world you take a - way.



prends pi - tié - cy de nous.
Have mer - cy on us.



Christ, A - gneau de Dieu, qui ô - tes le pé - ché du mon - de,
Christ, O Lamb of God, the sins of the world you take a - way.



prends pi - tié - cy de nous.
Have mer - cy on us.



Christ, A - gneau de Dieu, qui ô - tes le pé - ché du mon - de,
Christ, O Lamb of God, the sins of the world you take a - way.



don - ne - nous la paix.
Give to us peace.

Music Guy Bovet © 1976 Foundation d'édition des Églises protestantes romandes, Vevey, Switzerland

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome for communion.

Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread.

Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice.

Place the used cup on the next tray before returning to your seat.

Songs during Communion

Comme un souffle fragile

Pierre Jacob

Gaëtan de Courrèges. Harmony: F. Rauber

Refrain

Comme un souf - fle fra - gi - le, ta pa - ro - le se don - ne. Comme un

va - se d'ar - gi - le, ton a - mour nous fa - çon - ne.

1. Ta pa - role est mur - mu - re comme un se - cret d'a - mour.
2. Ta pa - role est nais - san - ce comme on sort de pri - son.
3. Ta pa - role est par - ta - ge comme on cou - pe du pain.

Ta pa - role est bles - su - re qui nous ou - vre le jour.
Ta pa - role est se - men - ce qui pro - met la mois - son.
Ta pa - role est pas - sa - ge qui nous dit un che - min.

© Auvidis.

Like a fragile breath, your word is given; like a clay vase your love shapes us.

1. Your word is a murmur like a secret of love.

Your word is the wound which opens for us the day.

2. Your word is a birth like escaping from prison. Your word sows the promise of harvest.

3. Your word is shared like a crumb of bread. Your word is the passage which tells us the way.

Wait for the Lord

Jacques Bertier: Taizé Community

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord be strong, take heart!

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France.

My Love colors outside the lines

Gordon Light: Canada

1. My love col-ors out-side the lines, ex -
 2. My Lord col-ors out-side the lines, turns

plor - ing paths that few could ev-er find; and
 wounds to bless - ings, wa - ter in-to wine; and

takes me in - to pla - ces where I've nev-er been be-fore, and o-pens
 takes me in - to pla - ces where I've nev-er been be-fore, and o-pens

doors to worlds out-side the lines. 3. We'll
 doors to worlds out-side the lines.

nev-er walk on wa-ter if we're not pre-pared to drown,

bo-dy and soul need a soak-ing from time to time. And we'll

nev-er move the grave - stones if we're not pre-pared to die, and re-al-ize

there are worlds out-side the lines. 4. My soul longs to

col-or out-side the lines. Tear back the cur-tains;

sun, come in and shine, I want to walk be-yond the boun-

- daries where I've nev-er been be-fore, and o-pen

doors to worlds out-side the lines.

Words and music, Gordon Light © 1995 Common Cup Company. www.commoncup.com. Used by permission

Sending forth

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lunch and Games for Teens – Today after Worship

Following worship today, teens are invited to spend the afternoon together at the church. We'll have lunch as a group and play board games together. All youth ages 13-19 are welcome to join!

Taizé Evening Prayer – Wednesday 26 February at 19h00

This Wednesday, 26 February, our church will be hosting a Taizé-style evening prayer service, with songs, scripture, prayer, and silence. We will be joined by several brothers from Taizé who are visiting Geneva for meetings at this time. Please spread the word—all are welcome to attend.

Next Sunday, 2 March – Worship at 17h30

Since next Sunday, 2 March, is the first Sunday of the month, worship begins at 17h30. Saya Hashino will bring her crystal bowls and lovely voice to enrich the story of the Transfiguration. Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer will be preaching. Even if you are not used to attending evening services, this promises to be an engaging and prayerful service just before we head into Lent.

Inaugural Piano Concert – Sunday 9 March, 13h30

On Sunday 9 March at 13h30, there will be a concert to inaugurate the church's new grand piano. Members of both the English and German-speaking congregations will be playing a wide variety of pieces. All are welcome!

Choral Evensong – Sunday 16 March, 17h30

On Sunday 16 March, our church is holding a common evensong service with Holy Trinity Anglican Church, with choirs from both congregations singing. The service will be held here at the ELCG at 17h30—all are welcome to attend.

Asian Dinner – Saturday 29 March

On the evening of Saturday 29 March at 18h00, some of our congregation members from Asia are planning a dinner to raise funds for the church. The ticketing system of the event is now live. You can buy tickets using the QR code at the right. Please share this opportunity with friends beyond the congregation. And be quick—tickets are going fast!



The Season of Lent – Starting 5 March

This year the worship committee has decided to concentrate on the Lord's Prayer as a part of our Lenten services. Each Sunday we will have an artist creating another phrase to accompany us in the sanctuary. In addition we will all receive a card and have others write phrases in it. One of the disciplines of Lent is to pray. When turmoil roils all around, we will find a strong center in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Here are several announcements related to the upcoming season:

Book Study – *The Practice of Prayer*

In keeping with our theme this year, the community is invited to join in reading and discussing *The Practice of Prayer* by Margaret Guenther. This lovely book addresses practical questions around topics like listening for God, finding God in the ordinary, and praying through times when God does not seem to be listening. It promises to be a rich and rewarding study, grounding us in a core practice of our faith. Groups will meet weekly (likely online) for discussion through the six week of Lent. To order a book and sign up for a study group, use the paper form available this morning or the electronic form sent to the congregation's email list. Contact Andy Willis with any questions.

Ash Wednesday – 5 March

Lent begins on Wednesday, 5 March, with a service of ashes and communion beginning at 19h30. Usually the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday has parts of the Sermon on the Mount just before and after the Lord's Prayer. This year we will include it. Lent begins with a strong reminder of our mortality. With confession, ashes and communion we remember that in life and in death, we are the Lord's.

Lent Quiet Day – Saturday 5 April

The congregation is planning a quiet day on Saturday 5 April. We'll spend the day together at Le Cénacle, a former monastery in Geneva, with time for prayer, reading, walking, and reflecting. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend.

Youth Trip to Taizé – Ascension Weekend

The congregation is exploring the possibility of organizing a trip to Taizé for youth ages 15-20, over the Ascension weekend (29 May – 1 June). If your son or daughter is possibly interested in joining, please contact Andy Willis soon.

Prayer Group

Our congregation's prayer group meets monthly to pray for the needs of our community and our world. The next meeting will take place at church, on Tuesday, 4 March from 19h until 20h. If you cannot join in person, it will also be possible to join online, via Zoom. Please contact Kiki Lawal with any questions you have or prayer requests you like to share: kiki.lawal@gmail.com.

Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **15 March, 19 April, 10 May**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Gladys Yegon, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

23 February – Group E

2 March – Group A

9 March – Group B

16 March – Group C

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,
please let your group's coordinator know.*

Cover Image:

Photo by [Shalitha Dissanayaka](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This Week's Schedule:

Wed, 26 Feb	19h00	Taizé evening prayer
Thurs, 27 Feb		<i>No choir rehearsal (school break)</i>
Sun, 2 March	17h30	Worship on Transfiguration Sunday, Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer preaching

Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève
CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance
CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

By cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

By U.S. dollar check: Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

If you are a guest in our congregation today, *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

ELCG Connection Card

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 Comments _____
 New to Geneva? Y/N _____ Date _____