

Our Savior's Lutheran

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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If you'd like to connect with either of our pastors, please don't hesitate to give them a call/text/email at your convenience; they'd consider it a blessing to meet with you. Thanks!

*gladly sharing **Our Savior's** grace!*

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 24, 2019

In the name of Jesus, the Lord's Anointed, welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran! Today, the celebration of our dear Jesus and the glad recognition of his grace that is ever-sufficient and which flows over into every aspect of our lives.



Whether this is your first time with us or Our Savior's is your church home, welcome to worship! If you have questions or needs, feel free to ask us; we'll do our best to help where we can.

If we can serve your spiritual needs past today, please fill out our guest book in the foyer or speak with one of our pastors to let us know how. Above all, know we consider having you here a blessing & we'd love to serve your spiritual needs!

To adore the God of Order in a fitting and orderly way (*I Corinthians 14:33, 40*), our service path is printed in this booklet. Today, in the name of the Three-in-One God, we gather to be refreshed by his grace and strengthened to *"be merciful, just as your Father is merciful"* (*Luke 6:36*), and consider the service theme:

Surprising Glory.

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Opening Song : Son of God, Eternal Savior (*white-page hymnal, 492, vv. 1-3*)

This happy hymn summons our praise and inaugurates our worship by celebrating the radiant love of the Lord's Anointed – the forgiving grace of our Savior God. His blessings abundant, we lean in to learn from his Word.



Son of God, eternal Savior

Source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth among us,

Honors all our human race,

You our head, who, throned in glory,

*For your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity;
Heal our wrongs and help our need.*

*Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion;
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
By your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst for pleasure;
Stem our selfish greed for gain.*

*Bind us all as one together
In your Church's sacred fold,
Weak and healthy, poor and wealthy,
Sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow?
Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken?
Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.*

The Greeting and Invocation

Jesus promises that where two or three come together in his name, there he is with his presence to bless and be with them (Mt. 18:20); that's why we call on ("invoke") his name and magnify the praise of the One, true God.

Minister : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†) and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All : **And also with you!**

A Confession of our Sins

God's grace allows us to directly approach him for forgiveness. This portion of our worship service reminds us of our sinful condition, realizes that we've fallen short of God's demands, and focuses us on our need for a Savior.

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

A moment of silence to recognize our own, individual sins and our deep need for forgiveness.

Our Lord's Absolution

For the sake of the Son, the Father has forgiven all our sins! It's the pastor's joy to proclaim and assure you that you have been set free ("absolved" or "acquitted") from all of your sins and from all of your guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen!

Our Prayer in the Joy of Forgiveness

This confident petition, known as the Prayer of the Day, rejoices in our good and gracious King and in all that he has so wondrously done as it pulls our hearts and minds to his throne of grace and asks for his blessing.

Gracious Father, keep your family – the Church – always faithful to you. In the grace of your Spirit, bless us to lean on the hope of your promises and to be strong

in the power of your love. Hear us, LORD, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord; he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever!



*As you, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
Freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.*

A Reading from Genesis 45:3-8a, 15 (this translation is the NIV84)

Joseph was more than bullied by his brothers; in fact, he only escaped fratricide because they sold him to an Egypt bound caravan. Years later, how would Joseph greet them?! With faith and forgiveness rooted in God alone.

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵**And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.**

⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸**“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.**

Point to Ponder:

Epiphany
celebrates God’s
glory and God’s
grace that are
made known
and flood to the
earth’s ends.
How are both
those on vivid
display here?

¹⁵ And he [*Joseph*] kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

This is God's Word.

Amen!

Sung Response: What God Ordains Is Always Good (white-page hymnal, 429, vv. 1-3)

Sometimes it's hard to see the good behind what God ordains, and what his permissive will allows to happen in our lives. This hymn, celebrates the gracious will of God that is with us, and continues to bless us always.



***What God ordains is always good;
His will is just and holy.
As he directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed, in every need
Knows well how he will shield me;
To him, then, I will yield me.***

***What God ordains is always good;
He never will deceive me.
He leads me in his righteous way
And never will he leave me.
I take content what he has sent;
His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.***

***What God ordains is always good;
He is my friend and Father.***



*He will not let me suffer harm
 Though many storms may gather.
 Now I may know both joy and woe;
 Some day I shall see clearly
 That he has loved me dearly.*

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 6:27-38 (this translation is the NIV84)

As Jesus speaks with his disciples – with those who knew his grace and mercy – he calls them to reflect his glory, his grace, and his mercy in a surprising way: in loving our enemies. In doing so, we epiphany the Lord’s glory!

The Gospel according to Luke chapter 6.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

“But I tell you who hear me: **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,** ²⁸ **bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.** ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 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? Even *sinners* love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even *sinners* do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even *sinners* lend to *sinners*, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ **Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**

Point to Ponder:

The life to which Jesus calls us – a life of following him – is wonderfully reflective of his grace and glory. How’s that evident in Jesus’ instructions?

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 and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Alleluia and Amen!

Statement of Faith : The Apostles' Creed

This creed is an irenic (peaceful) statement of faith. Though it was not written by the apostles, it is a true and concise statement of what they taught and of what the Bible has always taught concerning the Three-in-One God.

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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!

Sung Response: What God Ordains Is Always Good (white-page hymnal, 429, vv. 4, 5)

The concluding stanzas of this hymn remind us that being a Christ-follower in heart and life and word and deed does not mean life here is easy. Often, it means the opposite. And yet, we live and rest in our God's perfect grace!



*What God ordains is always good.
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God grants relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.*

*What God ordains is always good;
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for with his arm
He will embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.*

A Sermon Founded on Genesis 45:3-8a, 15

What God ordains is always good! Absolutely! And hearts of grace get to see that with eyes of faith. Just as Joseph recognized God's "hidden hand" made clear, so, too, do we get to see and reflect the gracious Godsend!

To review the Foundation Word of this sermon, please consider our Old Testament reading from Genesis 45

GLORIOUS GODSEND!

The Offering

Concerning the offering, the Lord says "each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7); if you're blessed to support Our Savior's with an offering – thank you! As we carry on our Lord's work, whether the gospel moves your heart to offer a prayer, a gift, or an encouragement, please do know we appreciate you for it!

Our Prayer, Sung Response, and the Lord's Prayer

This prayer pairs with the hymn, O Bless the Lord, My Soul (white-page hymnal, 238) to summarize the needs and thanks we've considered so far and approach Heaven's Throne with confidence in the Lord's Prayer.

Lord God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth. We praise you for every grace and blessing.



***Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless his name
Whose favors are divine!***

Loving Lord, too often we put our own concerns and priorities above your word, your will, and your work. Rid us of our selfishness, and fill us with the zeal to keep you first in our lives.



***Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let his mercies lie
Forgotten in un-thankfulness
And without praises die.***

God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him – even the outcasts and despised. Give us a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give us a love that accepts others, as we have been accepted by you.



***'Tis he forgives my sins;
'Tis he relieves my pain;
'Tis he that heals my sicknesses
And makes me young again!***

Lord God, give us strength and willingness to say with your Son, “not my will but your will be done.” Make us cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to us. From your hand we are willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep us from sin, gracious Father, and comfort us with your Word.



*He fills the poor with good;
He gives the sufferers rest;
The Lord has judgments for the proud
And justice for th' oppressed.*

A moment to offer today's prayer requests & a moment of silence to offer our own, private prayers.

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.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen!

Concluding Prayer and Benediction

Where the LORD's name is, there his blessing also is. Again aware of his goodness, his gifts, and his grace to us, our service concludes with God's promise to be with us, to bless us, to keep us, and to give us peace (Numbers 6).

Sisters and brothers, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look on you with favor (†) and give you peace.



***His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world his truth and grace
By his beloved Son!***

This Week for Our Savior's Lutheran:

Sunday (2/24):

9:45a – *Vicar Discussion* open-forum
(all voices needed, all voices welcome!)

Wednesday (2/27): **Pastor Stern in Longmont**

10:00a – *Pieces of Peace* Bible Class
(final session before our Lent schedule)

Sunday (3/3): *please remember to invite others!*

8:30a – Worship w/ Communion (musician: _?_?_?)
9:45a – Bible Class



Notes for the Next Weeks:

Just to keep it on the calendar and in our hearts, let's please remember that we get to celebrate Ash Wednesday with a special service on March 6 at 3:30p; of course, of course, of course . . . all welcome to celebrate *Good News. Great Joy. For You.*

If you're not able to attend our 3:30p service, please do feel welcomed to join our sisters and brothers in Christ at one of our other area midweek services.

Additionally, as February winds down, please get all March dates/events to Pastor Stern by Wednesday, February 27 so we can get them in the calendar. Thanks!