



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
February 23, 2025**

## Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

**Today's Focus:** Grace is this, the opposite of what we deserve. Jesus preached the grace of God and lived it. His followers will respond in kind.

**Stewardship from God's Word:** Genesis 45:3-15

Financial experts preach the virtues of a debt-free life. As Christians, however, we're never debt-free. We always owe God a debt of gratitude for his generous grace, and have a debt of love to one another. Although Joseph's brothers left him for dead, the Lord had other plans for him. Joseph displayed lavish love to his brothers, forgiving them and proclaiming peace. By his grace, God saved us from eternal death and forgave our guilt. We could never earn or deserve this gift! Let's pay back our debt of love to God and those around us, as thanksgiving for all God has done for us.

**Welcome!**

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching:

Jeremiah Backhaus

Organist:

Charissa Breitreutz

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer

[pastorfischer@oursaviorgrafton.org](mailto:pastorfischer@oursaviorgrafton.org)

Principal: Philip Krueger

[pkruieger@oursaviorgrafton.org](mailto:pkruieger@oursaviorgrafton.org)

Church Office: Lisa Skogstad

[oslcs@oursaviorgrafton.org](mailto:oslcs@oursaviorgrafton.org)

School Office: Jill Klug

[ols@oursaviorgrafton.org](mailto:ols@oursaviorgrafton.org)

*The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.*



**Our Savior**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

1332 Arrowhead Rd, Grafton, WI

[OurSaviorGrafton.org](http://OurSaviorGrafton.org)

Church 262-377-6363

School 262-377-7780

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Confession**

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



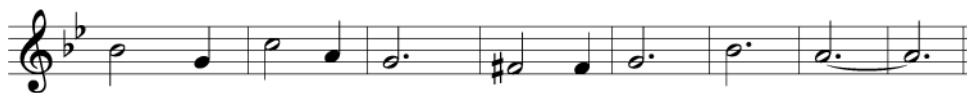
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,  
 with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A-men. A-men.  
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his  
 peo-ple on earth.

## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep your family continually in true faith, so that those who rely only on the hope of your heavenly grace may be protected by your mighty power; through

your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Genesis 45:3–15*

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>Then 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! <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

<sup>12</sup>“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup>Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 103A The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

Psalm 103A

## Second Reading

Romans 12:14–21

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary:

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

<sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:44,45



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Love your enemies and pray for those who perse - cute you,



that you may be children of your Father in heav - en.

Refrain



## Gospel

Luke 6:27–38

<sup>27</sup>“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup>If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>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 children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup>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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Son of God, Eternal Savior**

CW 729

**Sermon**

Romans 12:14–21

*Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.*

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**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.**

*Be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

**You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:  
**You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:  
**Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.  
**Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**


Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.  
**Amen.**

## Offering

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:*

Give In person	The offering is collected during each service.
Give with the App	Download the <i>Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement</i> app. Search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".
Give Online	<a href="https://oursaviorgrifton.org/give">Oursaviorgrifton.org/give</a> 

## Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CW 726

*Stand*

## Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

**May the Grace of Christ Our Savior**

CW 928

## Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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