



Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School
Grafton, WI
December 28, 2025

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Today's Focus: God reveals he remains in control even when the wicked continue to do wicked things.

Stewardship from God's Word: Matthew 2:13-23

The arrival of the Savior on this earth didn't eradicate evil from our world. Instead, a powerful plot to murder him arose. But our all-knowing and all-powerful Savior God was still in control, leading our Savior and his earthly parents to safety. As we ponder his saving activity in our lives, we have the same assurance that he watches over us for our good as we make daily decisions to glorify him with all we say and do.

Welcome!

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:

Jonathan Fischer

Organist:

Bob Klug

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer

pastorfischer@oursaviorgrafton.org

Principal: Philip Krueger

pkruieger@oursaviorgrafton.org

Church Office: Lisa Skogstad

church@oursaviorgrafton.org

School Office: Jill Klug

school@oursaviorgrafton.org

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



1332 Arrowhead Rd, Grafton, WI

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.

We remember today, O Lord, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive into the arms of your mercy all who lay down their lives for your sake, and prepare us by your grace to be ready at all times to live and die for you; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵This is what the LORD says:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,
mourning and great weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶This is what the LORD says:

“Restrain your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for your work will be rewarded,”
declares the LORD.

“They will return from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷So there is hope for your descendants,”
declares the LORD.

“Your children will return to their own land.

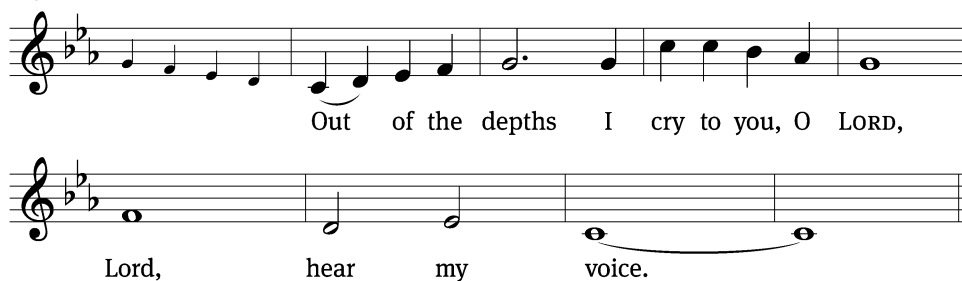
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

130A Out of the Depths

Psalm 130A

Refrain



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD,
Lord, hear my voice.

Tone



Out / of the depths

I / cry to you, O LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Listen closely as I / call on you for help.

LORD, if you kept / track of sins,

O / Lord, then who could stand?

But with you there is for- / giveness,

in order / that you may be feared. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my / soul waits,

and in his / word I put my hope.

More than watchers wait for / morning

my / soul waits for the Lord.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the / LORD is faithful love;
with him is complete re- / demption.
He will redeem Israel from the / guilt of all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the / Holy Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be for- / ever. Amen. Refrain**

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:12–19

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 116:15



Refrain



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

Tone



Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ser - vants.

Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸“A voice is heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children
and refusing to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

All Hail! You Infant Martyr Flowers

CW 978



1 All hail! You in - fant mar - tyr flow'rs, cut off in
2 With ter - ror does the ty - rant hear that God's own
3 King Her - od ra - ges at the Word: "Go, sol - dier,
4 Oh, what is gained from this of - fense? What prof - it



life's first dawn - ing hours; like rose - buds, snapped in
Son to us draws near. On Da - vid's throne he
with your ruth - less sword, to him, who stands where
comes from vi - o - lence? The Sav - ior - King sur -



dread - ful strife, when Her - od sought our Sav - ior's life.
comes to dwell and reign as King of Is - ra - el.
we have stood, and stain the In - fant - crib with blood!"
vived the day, as Christ was safe - ly whisked a - way!

- 5 A voice is heard in bitter pain
as Rachel mourns the infants slain,
refusing comfort—sacred lore—
because her children are no more!
- 6 Of you, O little lambs, we sing,
first victims slain for Christ our King:
beneath the heav'nly altar's ray
with martyr-palms and crowns you play!
- 7 To you, the virgin-born, we raise
thanksgiving and eternal praise,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon

Matthew 2:13–23

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

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 *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement* app, search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".

Give Online Oursaviorgraffton.org/give.



During the offering, please sign the friendship register located in each pew.

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near

CW 867

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

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Glory to God in the Highest Tune: Marty Haugen Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932.

Psalm 130A Out of the Depths Text: Lectionary for Mass Tune: James J. Chepponis Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (Refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932 Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House (Verse tr.). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932 Tune: © 1980 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932 Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932.

Gospel Acclamation Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932.

All Hail! You Infant Martyr Flowers Text: Aurelius C. Prudentius, 348–after 405; tr. Peter M. Prange, b. 1972 Tune: Rheinfeßsisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, Augsburg, 1666 Text: © 2008 Peter M. Prange, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932.