

Grace Lutheran Church

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A Different Way

“You live in a dream world. Nobody actually lives like that.” Her brother-in-law couldn’t believe she actually thought that it was possible, or even a goal, to love your enemies, to treat others with kindness instead of revenge, to give generously without thought of being repaid.

Jesus’ words do seem to be from another world. Our world doesn’t operate like the one he envisions. In our world, some people aren’t even satisfied with “an eye for an eye.” Our movies, television series, and video games are filled with ever bigger explosive responses to enemies. It’s rare to see one where someone desires the enemy to be redeemed instead of eliminated. At work, school, on the court, at home, it’s hard to get hurt and not want to respond out of the desire to hurt back.

Jesus asks us to respond with kindness, generosity, and love, to go the second mile, even to pray for our enemies. Otherwise, the actual fighting never stops. It just goes back and forth and on and on.

It takes courage to model a different way to handle hurt. We’re challenged to be courageous lovers of God, ourselves, and others—not as doormats but as those who firmly do the loving thing. That can even mean doing the tough loving thing of setting a boundary for someone.

That’s the dream of the kingdom that Jesus embodies and invites us to pray for as we live it out. Jesus is the one who loves and forgives even us who have been hurtful to others, ourselves, and God. He is the one who prays for his enemies from the cross. For a world full of hurting people who hurt people, the resurrected Jesus brings light, life, healing, and hope to redeem us all.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 19, 2017

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

Come All You People

WOV 717 (blue book)

Greeting

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Holy God of compassion, you invite us into your way of forgiveness and peace.

☑ **Lead us to love our enemies, and transform our words and deeds to be like his through whom we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy since God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Ⓛ A reading from **Leviticus:**

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹²And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

☐ God, we thank you for your Word,

☑ **the story of your grace.**

Psalm 119:33-40



³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. ☐**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. ☐**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

☐ A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus

Christ. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

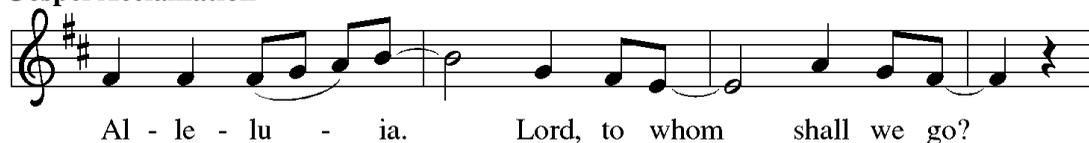
²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

📖 God, we thank you for your Word,

📖 the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares an end to the law of vengeance. God’s people will respond to evil with love and forgiveness.

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

📖 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; ⁴⁰and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; ⁴¹and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your

brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

⁴⁸“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Silence for reflection. Stand as you are able.

Song of the Day

We Are Called

ELW 720 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

A Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

A Make the church in every land holy as you are holy, O God. Join the voices of rich and poor, young and old, friends and enemies, in praise of you. Orchestrate harmony among us. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, Messiah Lutheran Church in Constantine, Freeport United Brethren Church in Freeport; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for clean air, clean water, and clean soil. Renew the sky, land, and waterways. Teach us how to care for the earth as you desire. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for an end to war and for peace throughout the world. Prosper the work of peacemakers, erase hatred, and stop violence. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all who live with cognitive disorders or eating disorders. Provide them with supportive communities. Restore the forgotten; comfort the mourning; heal the hurting. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Danny Gillons, Tim Lowe, Mattea Markwart, Kathy & Ken Plourde, Sue Manente, Carol Vos, Debra Wood, Vickey Saucier and Logan Clements.* Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for all who are discerning a call to ministry and those who accompany them. Empower them with your grace and wisdom to continue building on the foundation of faith we have in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful departed and we pray for those who will die today. Hold them in your loving embrace. Breathe your Spirit of peace into them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Create in Me

ELW 187 (red book)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

C **Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

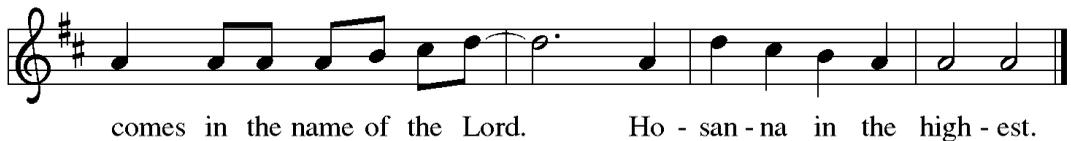
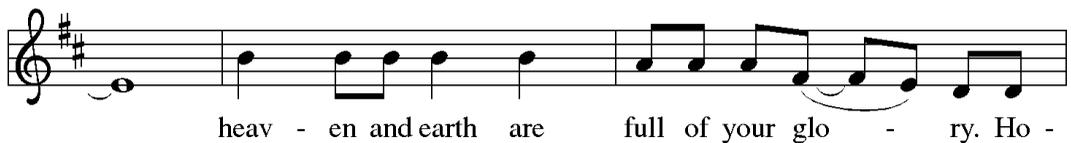
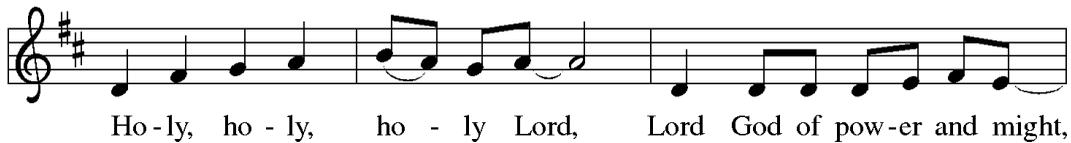
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

☞ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

☞ **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

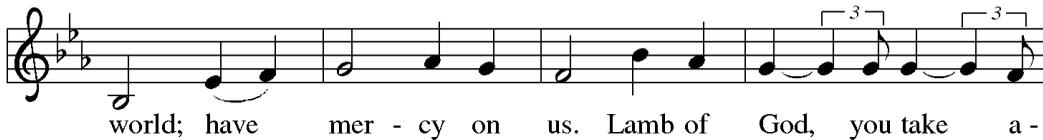
☞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☞ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

☞ **We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine.**

☞ May we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

☞ **To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.**



This Is My Body

WOV 707 (blue book)

One Bread, One Body

WOV 710

I Received the Living God

WOV 700

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.

G Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

G Amen.

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

Listen, God Is Calling

WOV 712 (blue book)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

G Thanks be to God.

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 72

Weekly Giving: \$5,781.62

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, elbow macaroni and saltine crackers.

If you have not already done so, **Lent Daily Devotional** submissions need to be turned into Mike Kemper this week, for a timely published booklet. If created by computer submit to Mike Kemper: mikenjane@mei.net or if hand written place in Mike Kemper's church mailbox. Any questions contact Mike Kemper 269-664-3599 or Kim Domke 269-908-0024.

Red Cross First Aid & CPR training on Feb 24 & 25. See the foyer board for specifics and to sign up. Contact Kim Domke, 269-908-0024, with questions.

Youth Committee - We are looking for people interested in serving on the Youth Committee. The Committee is tasked with overseeing youth and family ministry activities at Grace. Being a member of this committee is not a commitment to lead a youth group, teach Sunday school, head up events such as VBE or the Christmas Program but rather a commitment to participate in committee meetings, brainstorm on how we can provide ministry to the youth of Grace and those beyond our doors and to pray for those who are "boots on the ground" doing the work of ministry. If God is calling you to be a part of this committee please contact Jana Bishop by February 15th at 269-838-3348 or mark.jana.bishop@gmail.com

Vacation Bible Experience - It is never too early to begin making plans for VBE... Our first organizational meeting will be Sunday, February 19, after late service and is open to all interested persons.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00am
Assisting Ministers	Steve Kaiser	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Carol Vos	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Clyde N Watson
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church	n/a	Kim, Matt, Jeanette Markwart
Chancel Team	Chris Bush, Lisa Golnek	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, February 26, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	John Burdick	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Dan & Grayson Patton	Mark Anton, Sandy Mosteller Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Mark/Jana Bishop	Ingrid Morgan, Carla Neil
Children's Church	n/a	Children's Church
Chancel Team	Chris Bush, Lisa Golnek	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, February 19

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am
 Adult Forum 9:30 am
 Children's Church 10:45 am
 VBS Planning 12:00 noon
 Transition Planning 12:00 noon
 Youth Group 6:00-7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 21

Council 6:00 pm

Wednesday, February 22

Prayer Group 6:00 pm

Thursday, February 23

Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45-5:00 pm
 Grace Notes adult bell choir 5:45-7:00 pm
 Choir 7:15 pm

Friday, February 24

CPR/First Aid Training