



February 23, 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

As We Gather:

Forgiving is not beyond the realm of possibility for us. Although, as children of Adam, we are part of the earthly world, by the grace of God we are also His children, in the family through Baptism. We extend God's love and forgiveness to those who hate us, take from us, and are our enemies. Anyone who is in Christ, while still dealing with this Adamic world, can expect undeserved favor – grace – from our heavenly Father for Jesus' sake. Today our worship helps to strengthen us for the task. Fear not! Those who oppose us are part of this fallen world; Christ has destroyed even death for us. And we are in Christ.

Welcome

Opening Hymn: LSB 725 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Opening Sentences

Pastor: As by a man came death,
People: **by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**
Pastor: As in Adam all die,
People: **So also in Christ shall all be made alive.**
Pastor: What is sown is perishable,
People: **what is raised is imperishable.**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Confident of our Lord's victory over death, leading all who follow Him by faith, let us confess our sins. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." We confess our failure to love our enemies, O Lord.
People: **We have responded to them as they have dealt with us. We have not done to them as we wish they would have done to us. Forgive us, Father.**
Pastor: "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you?" We confess our giving preference to people who are like us.
People: **We have loved those near and dear to us and have dealt with others without love and mercy. Forgive us, Lord Jesus.**
Pastor: "Judge not, and you will not be judged." We confess our judgment of people we think are not up to the standards we think we can meet.
People: **We have failed to pass on the forgiveness we have received from You, O Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord our God.**
Pastor: "Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Your sins have been forgiven by the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Friends, take heart as I have good news for you today. Your sins have been forgiven as promised by Jesus Christ himself.
People: **Amen.**

Introit (Psalm 37:1-5)

Pastor: Fret not yourself because of evildoers;

People: be not envious of wrongdoers!

Pastor: For they will soon fade like the grass

People: and wither like the green herb.

Pastor: Trust in the Lord, and do good;

People: dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

Pastor: Delight yourself in the Lord;

People: and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Pastor: Commit your way to the Lord,

People: trust in Him and He will act.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: and strengthen us to convey Your mercy to those around us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: and renew strong faith in You to follow You in all things.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: and open our hearts and minds to Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Hymn of Praise

“Glory to God in the Highest” (*Words and music in the hymnal--LSB page 204*)

1. **To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Good-will from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing. Our thanks for Your great glory. Lord God our heavenly King.**
2. **To You, O sole-begotten, The Father’s Son we pray. O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry, Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high.**
3. **You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Genesis 45:3-15

³ 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. ⁴ 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! 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. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But 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. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.’ ¹² “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Pastor: Praise the Lord, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

People: and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Pastor: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name;

People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

Epistle Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁰ And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I face death every day—yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³ Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. ³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. ⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: 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 slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 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 children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: LSB 706 “Love in Christ is Strong and Living”

Sermon

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Offering

Offeratory

Prayer of Thanks

All: Thank you Lord for blessing us so we may be a blessing to others. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn: LSB 741 "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of February 16, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Ken Lampe Cell: 417-366-3597

pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Bill & Diane Thompson & Homebound Families
Grace, Aurora - served by Rev. Ken Lampe

Prayers of Peace and Comfort

The family of Bill Munden on his passing this week.

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin's husband – health and healing)
Bob Brents – (health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Michelle Cody – (Pastor Cody's wife – health and healing from heart issues)
Roger Harris – (Wendy's Dad – health and healing from flu)
Deborah Knotts – (our cleaning lady – health and healing)
Wendy Koenig – (friend of Heidi Costello – health and healing from flu)
healing)Michael & Jennifer Lampe – (health and healing from a car accident)
Cathy Munden – (health and healing – from upper respiratory infection)

Tabitha Packwood – (health & healing)
Steve Parker – (friend of Joanne Michel – health and healing surgery)
)Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)
Robert Sick – (Ardella Frerich's granddaughter's husband)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)
Bryan Velasco – (friend of Bernie Thomas – health and
Randy Wallace – (brother-in-law of Micki Gettman)
Thomas Williams – (Ruth Stoddard's friend)

Long Term

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health & healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing from surgery)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Jan Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)
Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Jane Goodman – (health & healing)
Betty Gordon – (Health and healing)

Steve Hilton – (friend of Harold Lampe –health & healing, cancer)
Sheryl Holle – (Kathy Holle's cousin – health & healing, cancer)
Marty Jones – (Bobby Jones' mother – health)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Gary Lampe – (Pastor's brother – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's Sister-In-Law – health & healing)
Larry Moennig – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Bill Munden – (health and healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing)
Koooper Tutten – (Jeeper Meyer's Great-grandson healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health & healing from cancer)
Ron Hicks – (friend of Glenda Enlow – health and healing)

Barbara Jean Wilson –Friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	Feb. 23rd	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	Feb. 24th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	Feb. 26th	Pastor in Office Bible Study - 7:00 pm
Thursday	Feb. 27th	Pastor in Office Elders – 10:00 am Council – 11:00 am
Saturday	Mar. 1st	Annual Church Planning Meeting at Grace 9 am-12 pm (lunch provided)
Sunday	Mar. 2nd	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with communion
Monday	Feb. 3rd	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm Ladies LWML meeting Freistatt - 1:30 pm

Birthdays: Katelyn Foley & Stan Crandall-Mar.2

Anniversaries: None

February	
02/23: Charlie & Edee Chambers	23: David Lampe
Greeters	Ushers
03/02: Stan & Sharon Crandall	02: Bill Michel
03/09: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer	09: Mitch Littler
03/16: Bill & Joanne Michel	16: Charlie Chambers
03/23: Charlie & Edee Chambers	23: David Lampe
03/30: Emily Ernest & Sue Doss	30: Matt Miller



Choice Dollars: Please use them or lose them by March 31. If questions, ask Pam.

February 16 - Today The service will be Sunday at 2:00 pm at Grace. There will be a meal right after the service. Burial will be Friday, February 28, at 1:00 pm, at the National Cemetery in Springfield.

LWML is meeting on March 3, at 1:30 pm in the chapel. The program leader is Edith Harmon —

and the program is titled “What’s on your plate?” Scriptures will be used to illustrate what we go through in our lives, and also Dresden plate quilt pieces. It should be an interesting program. Please join us. There will be a business meeting after the devotion and program.

March 1 – Annual Church Planning meeting - 9 am-12 pm (lunch provided). This is our annual planning meeting on growing Grace and brain-storming new ideas. Put it on your calendar and come and share your insight and input. (March 1-Saturday)

March 5 – Soup Supper. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Soup supper is at 5:30 pm and Service at 6:30 pm

March 7 (Friday) the **Annual Trinity Lutheran School Carnival** will begin at 5:30 pm. Trinity is inviting local congregations to join them for this fun event. There will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall and all the games will be in the gym.

The online auction, which takes place the week ahead of the carnival, can be accessed at:

<http://32auctions.com/TLSauction2025>.

If you would like to donate an item to the auction OR, if you are able, to donate a Thrivent action grant, contact the school office at 417-235-5931.

April 5 (Saturday) **Project Shine will be from 9 am to 12 pm at Camp Barnabas** to help get ready for campers this summer. Please sign up! The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Bowling.

LWML will be sponsoring a clothing drive to support “For the Kids” located in Aurora, MO. “For the Kids” is an organization that gives clothing and toys to foster families and foster children in Lawrence, Barry and Stone counties, mainly Lawrence. Virginia Gaston, Director, has presented a program to our LWML and asked for our assistance. Often times, children are placed in a foster home in emergency situations and come only with the clothes on their back. “For the Kids” is a place that foster parents can bring the child and select clothing as needed. One of the most critical needs is new socks and underwear. Each child receives new socks and new underwear. Other clothing can be gently used.

We will collect your donations February 16, 23, and March 2.

Now Hiring - Immanuel Lutheran School in Lockwood.

- Principal for 2025-2026 school year
- 7th & 8th grade teacher for 2025-2026

For more information, call 417-232-4530 Ext. 3