

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



Forgiving Our Enemies, Overcoming Evil with Good

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent's Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but may if you wish.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

Explanation of the theme of the day: Throughout this season of Epiphany, Jesus has described the governing principles of his kingdom being completely opposite to the governing principles of the world. This week Jesus asks us to befriend our enemies, to love those who hate us, and to repay evil with good. Worldly logic would say that is a recipe for being walked all over. Yet haven't we seen this tactic work? When we were Christ's enemies, he loved us to the point of death. He repays our daily wrongs with the daily goodness of his mercy. In doing so, he won us for himself.

Here is the epiphany we badly need to have. Following the strategy Jesus lays out—loving our enemies—is not a capitulation to evil. It is a means of conquering it.

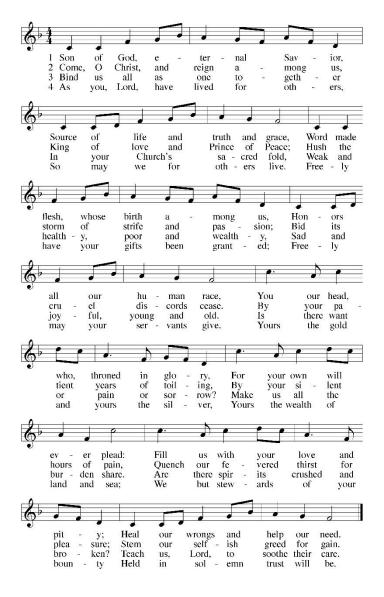
Lord of Love Lutheran Church

February 23, 2025

DIVINE SERVICE II

OPENING HYMN (CW 492)

Son of God, Eternal Savior



INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Mark 10:47

Kyrie

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

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THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who are rejoicing; weep with those who are weeping. ¹⁶ Have the same respect for one another. Do not be arrogant, but associate with the humble. Do not think too highly of yourselves.

¹⁷ Do not pay anyone back evil for evil. Focus on those things that everyone considers noble. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, maintain peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ But:

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For by doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

M: Alleluia. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:27-38

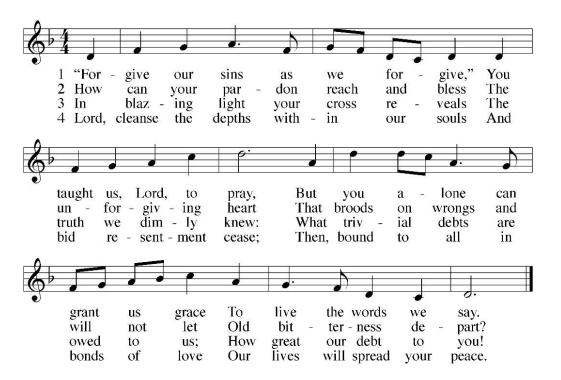
²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek, offer the other too. If someone takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes away your things, do not demand them back.

³¹ "Treat others just as you would want them to treat you. ³² If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? To be sure, even the sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners do the same thing. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even the sinners lend to sinners in order to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the unthankful and the evil. 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. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children are invited to come forward this morning for a brief children's message.



Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: DETROIT (CM) A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820.

SERMON Genesis 45:3-15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" His brothers could not answer him, because they were terrified by his presence. ⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me, please."

They came closer. He said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now do not be upset or angry with yourselves for selling me to this place, since God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. ⁶ For two years now the famine has been in the land, and there are still five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me ahead of you to preserve you as survivors on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great act of deliverance. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God, and he has made

me a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry, go up to my father and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: "God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me. Do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the land of Goshen, where you will be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will take care of you here, for there are still five years of famine. Otherwise you will come to ruin, you, and your household, and all that you have." ¹² Pay attention. Your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You shall tell my father all about my position of honor in Egypt and about everything that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder. ¹⁵ He kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that his brothers talked with him.

He Forgives Them!



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is. seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BE SEATED

GATHERING OF THANK-OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register during the collection of the offering.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, your servant Joseph endured hardship and struggle, yet he believed it would come to good. Give us such tested faith, and bring all things to completion according to your purposes in Christ, the new Adam, who has brought hope to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve and unite your Church, O Lord. Bring an end to her earthly divisions, which grieve you. Give her the true unity of doctrine and faith in your Word. Bless and sustain our leaders in our Synod, district, circuit and this congregation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, your Son, our Lord, commanded us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us and pray for those who persecute us. We implore you, by your gracious visitation, lead our enemies to true repentance and to have the same love, be of one accord, and share one mind and heart with us and with your whole Church. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Righteous Lord, uphold civil authority and those responsible for the welfare of our nation, state and community. Help them steadfastly to pursue the cause of justice and protect life from beginning to natural end. Guard all first responders, and protect those who defend us here or abroad. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, according to your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [especially _______]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with your mercy. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the gift of this blessed Sacrament, O Lord. Give us a right heart as we prepare to eat and drink Christ's true body and blood, that by it we would be equipped to love you above all and our neighbors as ourselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, heavenly Father, hear these our humble requests, and graciously give answer; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M :	The Lord be with you.
C:	And also with you.
M:	Lift up your hearts.
C:	We lift them up to the Lord.
M :	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C:	It is good and right so to do.
M :	It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him.
	Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

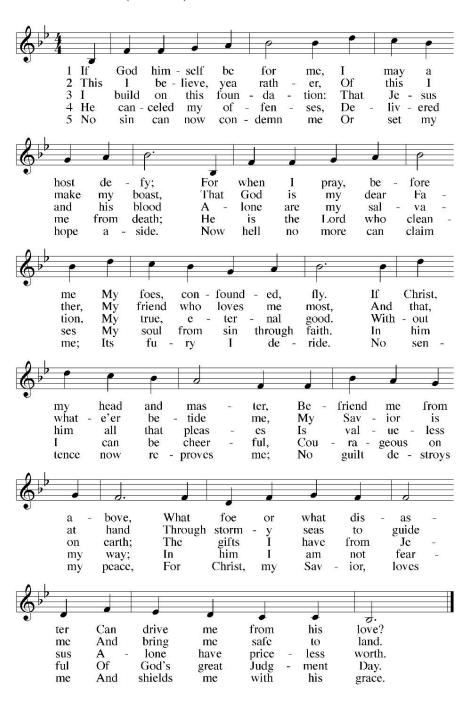
LAMB OF GOD John 1:29



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION





DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CW 464)

Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711, abr.; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883-1965, alt.

Tune: ACH, WAS SOLL ICH SUNDER MACHEN (877 877) Schäffer-Belustigung . . . Hirthen-Lieder, Altdorf,

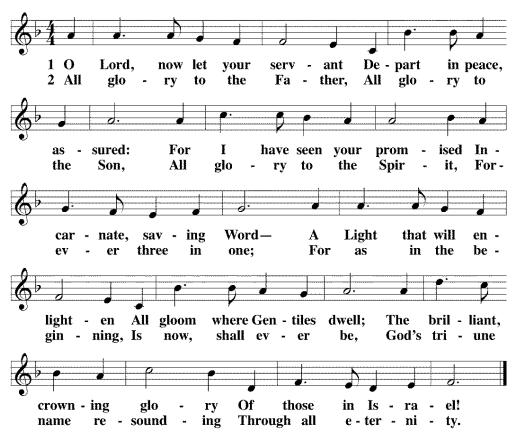
1653, alt.

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

Nunc Dimittis Tune: ANGEL'S STORY



M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen. BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (CW 329)

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

Tune: NEW ULM (87 87 87) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Gluten Free communion wafers: Gluten free communion wafers are available each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you would prefer this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar.

Weekly Bible Studies

Sunday 9:15 am: Exodus, sanctuary

Tuesday 9:00 am: Kings and Prophets of Israel, lower level

Wednesday 6:30 pm: Gospel Motivation, lower level

Thursday 6:30 pm: Christian Doctrine, lower level

Friday 6:00 am: Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Hebrews

DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

Sunday February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion

Sunday February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman/Elder: 8:00: Dave Olson, 10:30: Mitch Myhre
- Ushers 8:00: Roger LaGrange and Lucas LaGrange
- Ushers 10:30: Ryan and Anna Jaeger
- Counters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Altar Guild: Donna Cotter
- A/V & Recording: Devin Anderson
- Refreshments: RaeLyn Parker

Sunday March 2nd: Transfiguration of the Lord

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman/Elder: 8:00: Jim Miller, 10:30: Shane Strong
- Ushers 8:00: Steven and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30: The Holzman Family
- Counters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Altar Guild: Bonnie Punzel and Reagan Oughton
- A/V & Recording: RaeLyn Parker
- Refreshments: Volunteers needed

<u>Happy Birthday</u> We wish God's blessings to Lanna LaGrange (2/26), and Violet Kuecker (2/28) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, Steve Tobison, and Roger Kovaciny who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE

February 26: Usher Meeting/Training | 6:30 pm - sanctuary

February 27: Ladies Fellowship Meeting | 6:30 pm – fellowship hall

March 5, Ash Wednesday: Worship at 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9: Lent Worship at 3:30 and 6:30 pm

March 16: Youth Bowling Outing to Rude's Lanes, DeForest | 3:00 pm

Tuesday mornings at 9:00. The class will focus on the history of Israel from the days of Saul, their first king, to Malachi, the last Old Testament prophet. This will be an exciting adventure leading through palace intrigues, failed marriages, ungrateful children, nasty queens, epic battles, and much, much more! In it all we will see our gracious LORD acting in human history to preserve his chosen people and set the stage for the ultimate King and Prophet – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Please join us if you can!

AV Volunteers Needed:

Our technology group is looking for a few extra helpers to assist with AV and recording at our worship services. Tasks include recording the service and making it available on our website and Facebook page for those who cannot attend worship. Also assisting with sound and PowerPoint Slides during the service. Training will be provided. If interested or to learn more, speak with anyone on the Technology committee or let the church office know.

<u>Usher Training this Thursday | Feb. 26 at 6:30 pm:</u>

Are you a current usher, or would you like to be one? Join us Wednesday February 26 for a training meeting in the sanctuary. This is a good time to review our current practices and discuss ideas for changes or improvements. All ushers are encouraged to attend.

Cradle Roll Volunteer Needed:

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate our Cradle Roll program here at Lord of Love. Families with young children receive Christian parenting materials from pre-birth to age 4. Books, pamphlets, parenting tips and music are periodically mailed out to families with young children. The church purchases the materials and covers the cost of mailing. The volunteer simply mails items at specific times as the child grows. The work is completed from home. Training is provided. To learn more, speak with Mary Mundt or contact the church office.

Wish List Item:

At our January 19 congregational meeting, the voters approved creating a wish list fund for a new stove/oven and two wall ovens for the downstairs kitchen. The estimated cost for this is \$5,000. If you would like to contribute towards the purchase of these appliances, donations should be clearly marked "Kitchen Ovens".

Youth Group Bowling Outing | March 16, 3:00 pm at Rude's Lanes, DeForest:

We are excited to announce this fun youth group bowling outing with Pastor and Sue. On March 16th we will be meeting at 3:00 pm for an afternoon of bowling fun! The cost is \$10 per person which includes bowling, shoes, pizza and soda. No cost for the fun & fellowship. Please sign-up and join us for this fun youth outing. Sign-up is located on the back counter in the narthex.

Lent Meal Coordinators:

During Lent it has been a tradition at Lord of Love to have Lenten Potluck meals at 5:30 pm on the Wednesdays during Lent. We are looking for volunteers to serve as weekly coordinators to oversee the meals each week. The coordinator is not responsible for preparing the meal, simply overseeing to be sure the potluck items are ready to serve. The Church provides coffee, plates, cups, napkins, forks, spoons, etc. All meals will be hosted in the fellowship hall. If you have interest in coordinating one or more of the meals, there is a sign-up sheet located on the back cabinet in the Narthex. Please see Kristin with any questions you may have.

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Worship 3:30 and 6:30 pm Potluck 5:30 pm

Wednesday Lent Services

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

Worship 3:30 and 6:30 pm Potluck 5:30 pm (Chili Cook- Off April 9)