

The Forgiven Spend Their Lives Forgiving

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 24, 2019

6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com | Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors: Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Aaron Ferkenstad, & Ben Wiechmann | Principal: Allen Labitzky

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall.

Service of the Word

The readings for the Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany tell us the way to live in God's upside-down kingdom. Loving enemies and doing good to those who hate us does not follow the logic of a world that seeks to return hate with hate. Yet Jesus did this very thing for us when he went to the cross and took the full force of this world's sinful hatred and conquered it with his self-giving love. Now we are called to likewise treat each other and all people with love and respect, remembering that this present physical life is only temporary—we are on our way to something far better!

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds | #420

INVOCATION

This sentence comes from our Lord's institution of the sacrament of Baptism (Matthew 28:19) through which God brought each of us into his Holy Christian Church.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

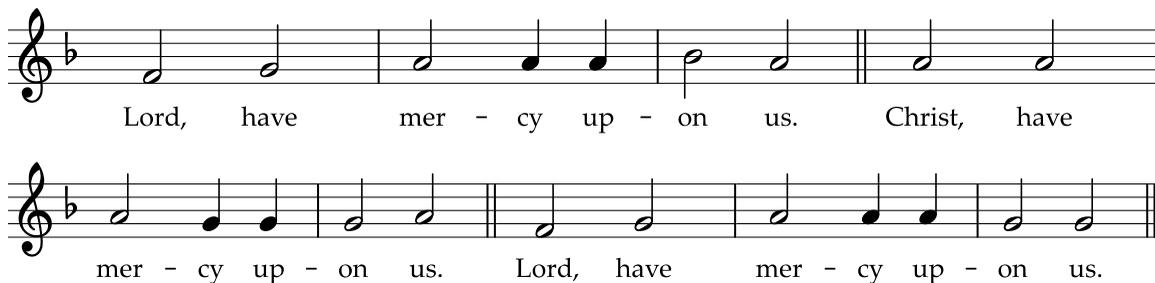
P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

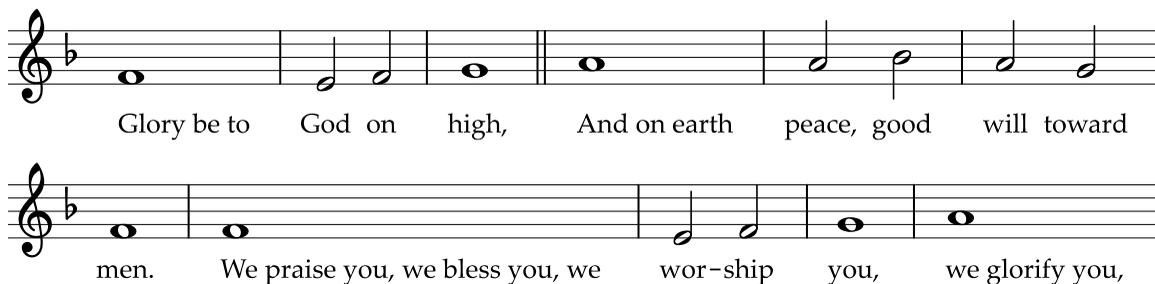
C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have
mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

HYMN

Glory to God in the Highest



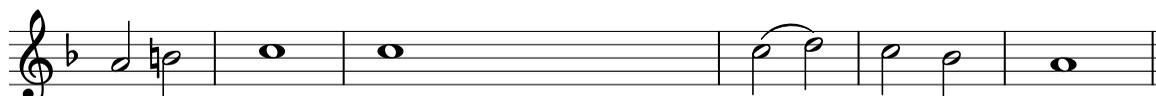
Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



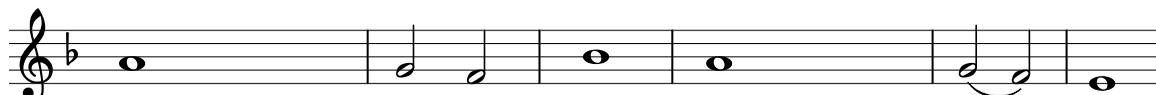
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly



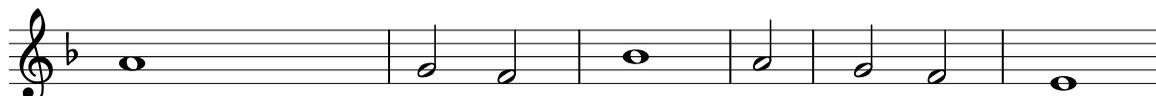
King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on



us. For you only are holy. You on - ly are the Lord.



You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the



glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we love our enemies: Loving heavenly Father, thank you that your Son loved us even when we were enemies, and that he prayed for those who killed him. Teach us to be merciful like you, and do good to all people, even to those who do us harm. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

Christ's resurrection is the guarantee that God has forgiven us and that we also will rise. This certainty gives us the power to risk living in an upside-down way today.

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

³⁰And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹I die every day—I mean that, brothers—just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” ³³Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴Come 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.

³⁵But someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. ³⁹All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. ⁴⁰There 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. ⁴¹The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

⁴²So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27–38

Jesus tells his disciples how to live in his upside-down kingdom—by doing good to our enemies, not just tolerating them.

²⁷“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who ill-treat you. ²⁹If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. ³⁰Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹Do 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. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that. ³⁴And 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. ³⁵But 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 sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be 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. ³⁸Give, 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.”

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 shall 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

How Fair the Church of Christ Shall Stand | #418: 1-4, 7

SERMON

The Forgiven Spend Their Lives Forgiving | Genesis 45:3-15

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us." Joseph is the best example in the Bible of forgiving one's enemies. He is a picture of Christ.

³Joseph 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.

⁴Then 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! ⁵And 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. ⁶For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be ploughing and reaping. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

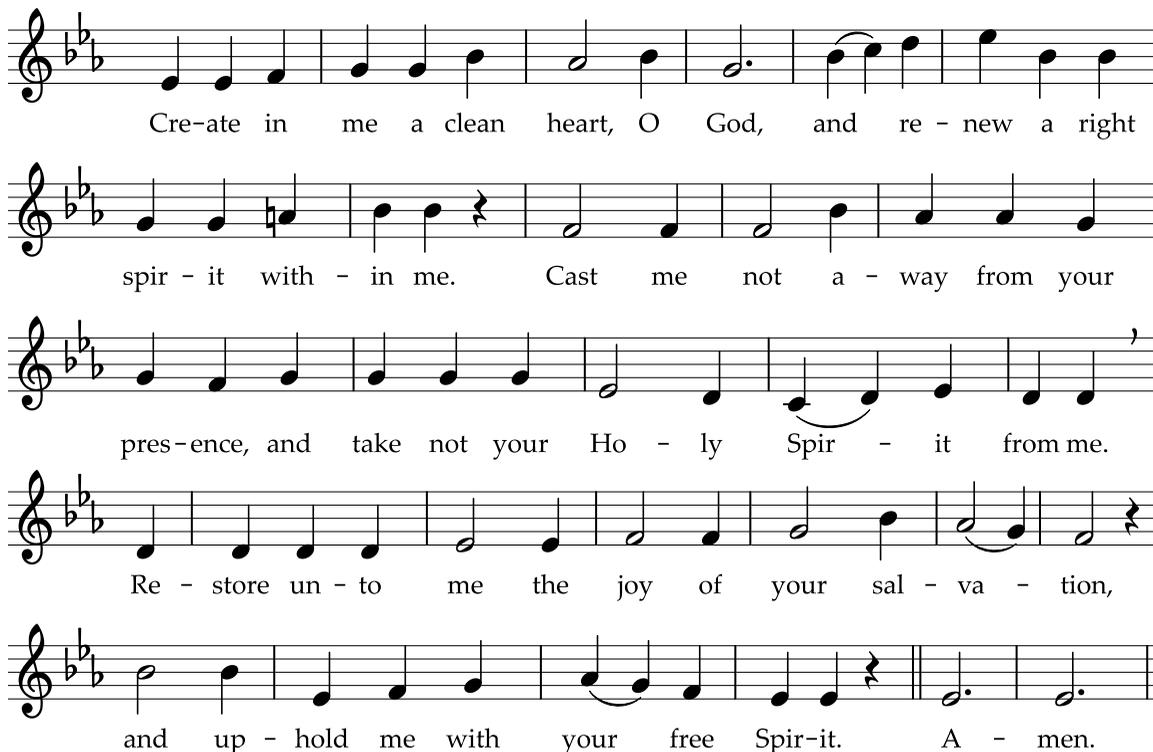
⁸"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ¹⁰You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹I 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. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

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

HYMN

Create in Me



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING AND PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

HYMN

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower | #409

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God the Father, that you have given your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, that you have borne in your sacred body all our sins, and by your blood have blotted out all our transgressions. We thank you, Lord the Holy Spirit, that you have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

O God, grant us your grace, that we may perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and so enlighten us by your Holy Spirit, that—in the power of our Redeemer’s death—we may day by day put off sin and never forsake the Lord Jesus Christ, until we see him face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ’s name. Amen.

P: 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.



Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS? Please contact Wanda Warnke at 612-529-1497.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 373 worshiped on Sunday, and 15 worshiped on Monday.

OFFERING LAST WEEK

Average Needed Per Sunday: \$16,154

Average Needed Year to Date: \$549,236

Received Last Week: \$24,438

Received Year to Date: \$608,265

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by the Woodington family in celebration of Henry's baptismal anniversary.

MONDAY WORSHIP

The last Monday evening worship service will be February 25. We shift to Wednesday worship starting with Ash Wednesday on March 6 at 6:30 PM. Our Monday evening worship will resume on April 29.

KING'S DAUGHTERS

King's Daughters will meet Tuesday, February 26, at 6:30 PM. As we begin a Bible study about the fruits of the Holy Spirit, this month's lesson will focus on the love of Ruth. We will also discuss whether King's Daughters wish to support a Kingdom Workers project or are interested in partnering with that group to develop a local, sustainable mission project in our community. All ladies are invited.

KING'S LITTLEST KIDS

Help needed! We are looking for one more helper for the kid's room. We meet from 9:45 AM - 11:30 AM on Thursdays. The spring session will meet from **February 28 – May 16**, with no session on March 28 or April 18. If you are willing to help or have any questions, please contact Emily Bredeson at 612-703-7385 or ejshoop@hotmail.com. Hourly pay is available.

LADIES' BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Is investing more time in God's Word this year part of your New Year's resolution? Whether your answer is yes or no, if you are a young lady we would love to have you join us in a three-week study on Galatians! We will encourage each other on our heavenward journey just as Paul did for the Christians of Galatia in this letter he wrote so long ago! We will meet at King of Grace at **7:00 PM** for an hour-long study on **Thursdays: February 28, March 7, and March 14**. If you enjoy this three-week study, we are hoping to start a regular bi-weekly study on Tuesdays after we finish Galatians. For more information, please contact **Jenna Albrecht** at jalbrecht@blc.edu or **Lauren Farquhar** at lfarquhar@blc.edu. Please let us know if you can make it so we are sure to have enough materials.

SPECIAL VOTERS' MEETING

Be sure to attend the special voters' meeting to be held Sunday, March 10 after second service. We will be extending a call for an eighth grade teacher.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

During the month of March the Saturday morning Bible study group will be completing their study of the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Romans. The next topic will be a study of Paul's Epistles to his student, Timothy. We will be using each one's favorite Bible and a commentary on Timothy prepared by Armin W. Schuetze and published in "The People's Bible" series. We welcome additional participants in this study.

SEEKING PRESCHOOL AIDES

King of Grace Lutheran School is seeking Aides to work in our preschool for the 2019-2020 academic year. Anyone interested should submit a short cover letter and brief resumé to Principal Labitzky. No special degree is required, but applicants need to be able to work in a high energy, active and play-filled learning environment with up to 20 preschoolers.

Calendar

Today	9:30 am	“Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer” with Pastor Ekhoﬀ “The Book of Job” with Pastor Ferkenstad “How to Go to Church” with Pastor Wiechmann “Caregiver Support: Manage Stress” with Theresa Carriger
	1:00 pm	King’s Kids Ice Skating
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship Service
	6:30 pm	Administration Committee
Tuesday	6:30 pm	King’s Daughters
Thursday	9:45 am	King’s Littlest Kids
	7:00 pm	Senior Choir
	7:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study
Saturday	8:30 am	Men’s Bible Study
Sunday	9:30 am	“Catechism: The Lord’s Prayer” with Pastor Ekhoﬀ “The Book of Job” with Pastor Ferkenstad “How to Go to Church” with Pastor Wiechmann “Caregiver Support: Get Support” with Theresa Carriger

Preacher.....Rev. Erv Ekhoﬀ | **Liturgist**..... Rev. Aaron Ferkenstad
OrganistKaren Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Lynn Handberg
Preschool Music Director Abby Marozick

Counters TodayCindy & John Costello, Leah Wandersee
Counters Next Sunday Tim Bechtold, Kim Studanski
Usher Captains TodaySteve Kopacek, Loren Braun
Usher Captains Next Sunday.....Bruce Christensen, Brian Pederson
Video Team TodayBen Oppitz
Video Team Next Sunday Kirk Guillaume
Coffee Clean Up Today Board of Elders
Coffee Setup Next Sunday..... Sopranos & Tenors
Coffee Clean Up Next Sunday School Board
March Altar Guild Patty McDowell, Carolyn Kopacek