

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #835 – “All Creatures, Worship God Most High!”

**CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS** - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup>Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**A: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup>Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

**GREETING** - p. 138

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

**A: And also with you.**

**KYRIE** - p. 138

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see insert.

**FIRST READING** – Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Please see insert.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** – 37:1-11, 39-40 Please see insert and read responsively.

**SECOND READING** – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Please see insert.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** - p. 142

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** – Luke 6:27-38 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.** *The assembly sits.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - ELW ##732 – “Borning Cry”

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM** – KAIDEN DORN - p. 234

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** - “Cultivating Love through Epiphanies” ELW #677

“This Little Light of Mine” – All Verses

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** - p. 143 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** - p. 145 – *Please stand in body or spirit.*

**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** - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

**A: Thanks be to God. The assembly sits.**

**SENDING SONG** - "Here I Am, Lord" See Insert

**POSTLUDE**

**We pray always for . . .**

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,  
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner*

**We also remember in our prayers . . .**

*Winfrida, Juliet, Vanesa & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania*

### **Announcements**

**TODAY 2/23/25 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation of Kaiden Dorn

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Tower Echoes Deadline

Faith Lutheran Luther League Soup Dinner, Talmage – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY 2/25/25**

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

**WEDNESDAY 2/26/25**

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY 3/2/25 Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

**During the month of**

**February we will be**

**collecting Socks,**

**underwear & mittens/gloves**

**for men, women and children**

**to be given to the People's**

**City Mission**

Ash Wednesday Service is March 5<sup>th</sup>  
at Grace Lutheran Church at  
7:00 p.m. with Communion &  
disposition of Ashes

*Senior members if you wish to share a meal with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, please call the church @ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.*

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office.*

*You may email the church office [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

**You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church), 402-864-2113 (home)  
or 402-826-0613 (cell)**

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺*

We celebrate today with Kaiden Dorn at the completion of his confirmation education. Today he will be received as full member at the Affirmation of Baptism. God bless Kaiden!

### **Kaiden James Dorn**

His parents are Travis Dorn and Shelley Dorn

His baptism sponsors are Brian & Nikki Gordon

Faith Statement:

I believe in our one loving God, that willingly sent his Son to die for our sins. Not because we deserved it, but out of true love.

I believe that God the Father created all of what is known, unknown and loved within this world. Creating heaven for when we leave this world to show that his love is an ongoing testimony that will withstand the test of time.

I believe that Jesus, God's son, died a painful death so our sinful nature can be forgiven. After three days Jesus rose to be at the right hand of the Father, thus showing us that he was truly God's only Son. I believe that the Holy Spirit brings faith to us and leads us to God. Leading us from a life of sin so we can find God's presence in everyday life.

I was baptized because my parents believed I should be brought up in faith, so I can have a relationship with God.

I wish to be confirmed because I felt it was essential to my faith and life to be confirmed, so I can build my relationship and knowledge of God.

I want to be at this church because I was brought up in this church, as my father before me. Yet, I feel welcomed here due to the people and atmosphere.

Confirmation Verse: John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life”

## HERE I AM, LORD

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

### Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain
4. I, the Lord saw you baptized, watched you come to realize  
this belief that you have learned, you now will confirm.  
I'll be there throughout your life, times of happiness and strife.  
I'll be there to guide your way, I'll hear you say -- Refrain

**We thank Mark Wellsandt of Talmage** (Glen & Izma Seeba's grandson) for the final verse to "Here I am Lord" which remembers the Lord's love for our confirmation student on this special day.  
We use this verse by permission.



# Today's Readings

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 23, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

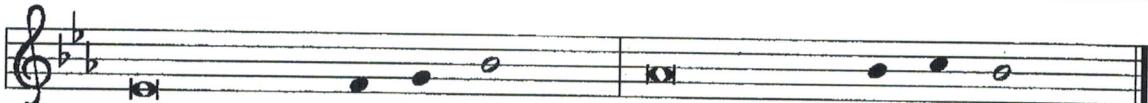
<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup>And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup>For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup>God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me

here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

<sup>15</sup>And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

## Psalm

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; tone 4



Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous  
of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.  
<sup>2</sup>For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.  
<sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.  
<sup>4</sup>Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire.  
<sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD;  
put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the LORD,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.  
<sup>6</sup>The LORD will make your vindication  
as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case  
like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.

<sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD  
and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked  
by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.  
<sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked;  
it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil.  
<sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD  
shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.  
<sup>10</sup>In a little while  
the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place,  
they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.

*continued*

<sup>11</sup>But the lowly shall possess the land;  
they will delight  
in abundance of peace.  
<sup>39</sup>But the deliverance of the righteous  
comes from you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold  
in time of trouble.

<sup>40</sup>You, O LORD, will help them  
and rescue them;  
you will rescue them  
from the wicked and deliver them,  
because in you they seek refuge.

## Second Reading

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup>Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup>So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup>It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

## Gospel

[Jesus said:] "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup>"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

<sup>45</sup>Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## Luke 6:27-38

to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."