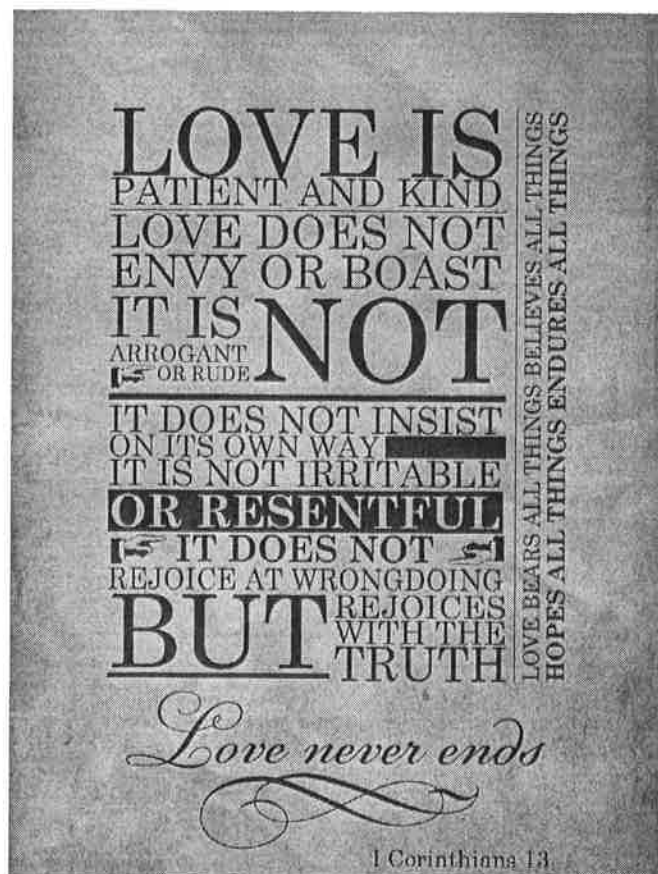




Christ Lutheran Church
401 S Main Street
Cochrane, WI 54622
Pastor Mark Wilde
Church Phone: 608-248-2387
Pastor's Cell: 715-495-3419
Email:
christlutherancochrane@gmail.com
YouTube Channel:
christlutherancochrane

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - February 16, 2025

798 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

CW 798

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

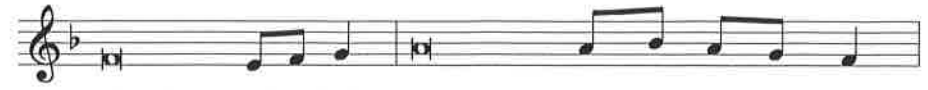


A - men.

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Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



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,



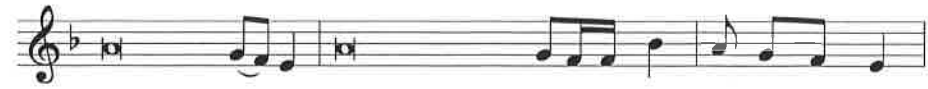
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



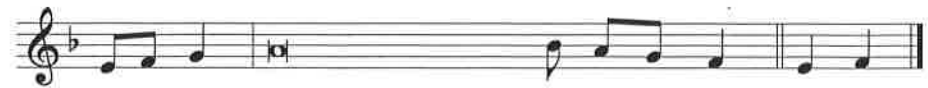
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly 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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, you know that we live in the midst of many great dangers, and in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Give us strength and protection to support us in all peril, and carry us through all temptations; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5–8

⁵This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷“But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.

⁸They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.

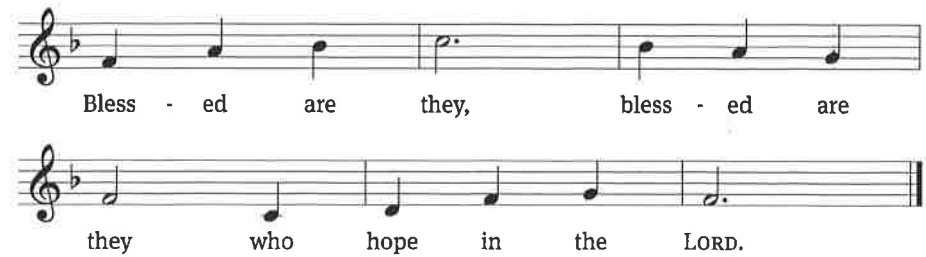
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

1A Blessed Are They

Psalm 1A

Refrain



Tone



Blessed is the one who / does not walk
in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 121:8

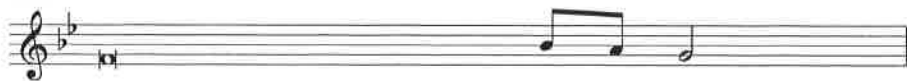


Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



The LORD will watch over your coming and go - ing



both now and for - ev - er - more.

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Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

**Sermon: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Celebrate God's Grace in
Difficult Times**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 will 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.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially
for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your

gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working
through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in
our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and
sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the
world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents
to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and
in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who
make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder
evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry,
medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and
care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity.
Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on
those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served
you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning
or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW 573

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

/0

Blessing

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.

Amen.

718 Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road CW 718

We thank our guest preacher this morning, Pastor Elroy Conradt, for sharing God's Word with us.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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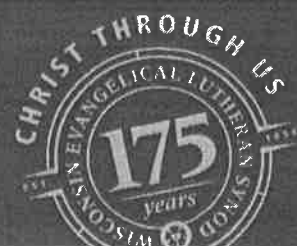
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11

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELS

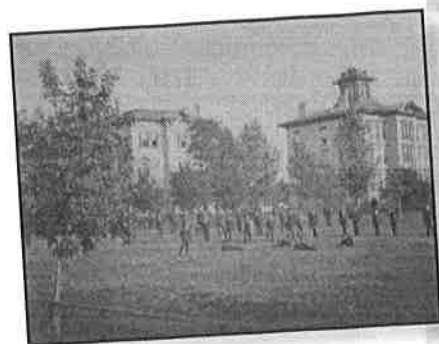


"We cannot and dare not rely on Germany. . . . We must dig a well in our country, in our synod, that will supply the workers."

- John Bading, 1862 convention proceedings

THE FOUNDING OF THE SEMINARY

The timing wasn't great. The Wisconsin Synod was quite small. Most of the members were recent immigrants who had not yet established themselves financially in their new homeland. There just wasn't much money to go around. The United States was in the middle of the Civil War. The Battle of Gettysburg was only about a month away.



The Northwestern campus in the late 1880s; the building on the right is the Kaffeemühle, the first building constructed on the campus in 1865.

Nevertheless, the synod in convention in 1863 followed the lead of the synod's president, John Bading, and resolved to establish a seminary of its own. The reasons were clear. The quantity of pastors the synod had been receiving from various sources was never enough. The quality of those pastors was often less than desirable.

Soon after the convention, Bading left on a journey to Germany and Russia to seek contributions for the new school. He brought back \$10,000 to Wisconsin.

THE FOUNDING OF THE SEMINARY

The seminary opened in Watertown, Wisconsin, in the fall of 1863. The beginnings were small. Dr. Edward Moldehnke was the only professor instructing one student in a rented house. That student was dismissed for disciplinary reasons in October, but another student enrolled in November.



Seminary students on the front steps of the Wauwatosa seminary building in the early 1900s.

In 1863 the synod also made plans to establish a college to prepare students for the seminary. The Watertown campus would also provide high school education. The first building was dedicated on Sept. 14, 1865, and Northwestern was born.

Soon after, the seminary moved to a different campus. The seminary (now known as Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary) has had several homes throughout the years: Watertown (1863-1870), Milwaukee (1878-1893), Wauwatosa (1893-1929), and Mequon (1929-present). From 1870 to 1878, the synod's pastors were trained at the Missouri Synod's seminary in St. Louis for financial reasons. Our forefathers' hope for the future in 1863 turned into a blessed reality. Since 1863, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary has graduated more than 3,800 men for the pastoral ministry.

Northwestern College served the synod on the Watertown campus until 1995, when it merged with Dr. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, to form today's Martin Luther College. Luther Preparatory School continues pre-ministerial education on the original Watertown campus.

**Learn more about the history of
Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.**



WELS Historical Institute
To learn more, visit welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th



RECOVERY IN CHRIST offers hope in Jesus.

A symptom of addiction of any kind is hopelessness. The focus of Recovery in Christ is to bring the hope of Jesus. RIC meets most Sundays at 4:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Onalaska, Wisconsin (school library) and Wednesdays, 1:15 pm at La Crosse's Coulee Recovery Center, 933 Ferry Street. To confirm meeting days/times call 608-567-3038 for Sundays, 608-784-4177 for Wednesdays.

Recovery in Christ is not meant to replace other groups or therapists. It is an additional group that offers Christian fellowship and direction to those in recovery from alcohol and/or drugs.

NEED A CARD? Why go to a big box store and spend more than you have to? Please browse our wide selection of cards in the former library room at Christ. Cards are exceptionally priced at \$0.50 each.

Diane Schultz is our sunshine lady. If anyone knows of someone who would like a card of encouragement, please let her know. Her cellphone is 608-738-9934 and her home phone is 608-685-3861.

Church Offerings

Wednesday, February 5: 9

General: \$270 Missions: \$10 Cap Imp.: \$

Sunday, February 9: 34

General: \$615 Missions: \$25 Cap Imp: \$35

(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Total: \$955

General: \$885 Missions: \$35 Cap Imp.: \$35

Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, February 16

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour

Monday, February 17

Tuesday, February 18

10:00 am Bible Class

6:30 pm Bible Class

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 pm Midweek worship service

Thursday, February 20

Friday, February 21

Saturday, February 22

Sunday, February 23

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class

9:30 am Worship Service

10:30 am Coffee hour