

LOVE

.....
BUT TO YOU WHO ARE LISTENING I SAY:

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES,

.....
**DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU,
BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE YOU,
PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MISTREAT YOU.**

TO THE EXTREMES

Christ Lutheran Church

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Cochrane, WI 54622

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[christlutherancochrane](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany - February 23, 2025

731 Oh, How Good It Is

CW 731

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

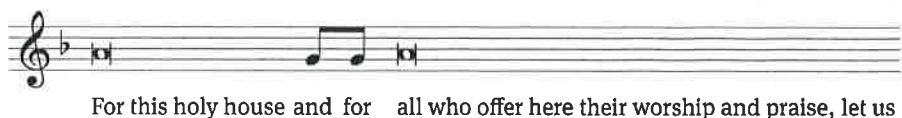
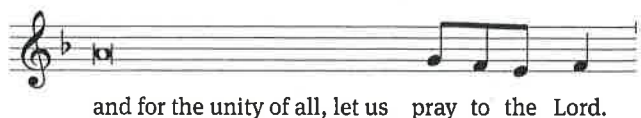
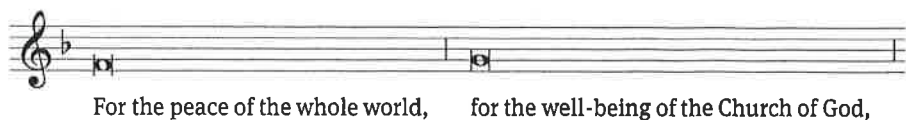
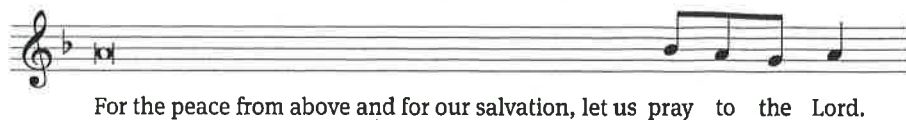
with his innocent suffering and death.

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

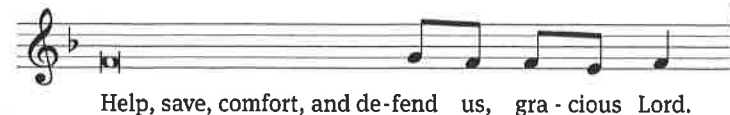
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



2

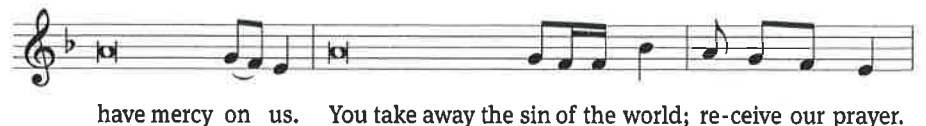
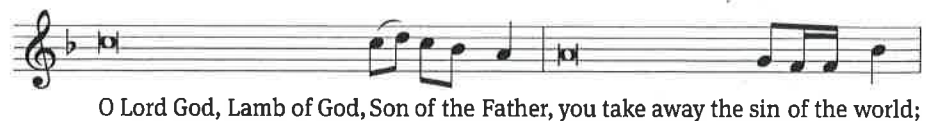
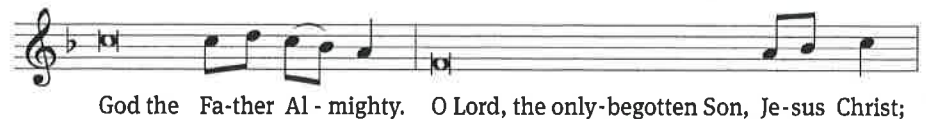
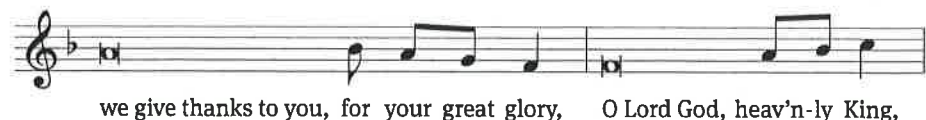
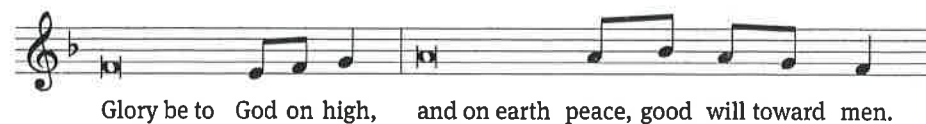


Tune: Kevin Becker

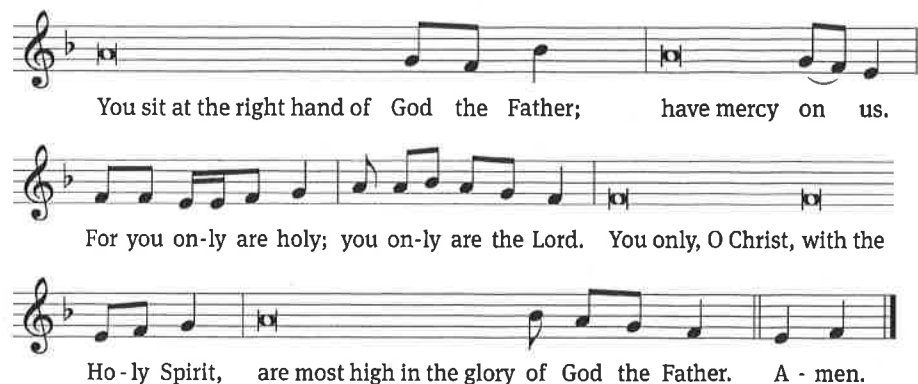
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Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



3



The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

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 be no plowing 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."

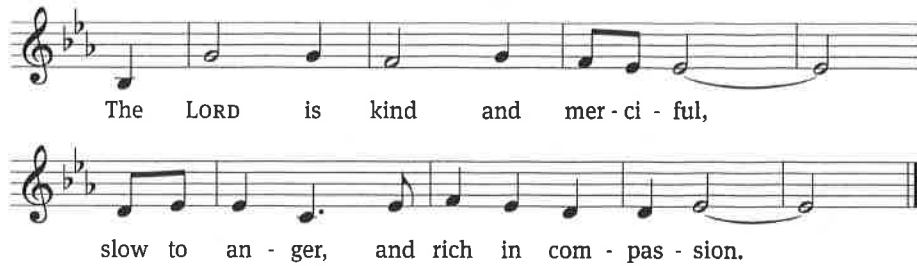
¹⁴Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

103A The LORD Is Kind and Merciful

Psalm 103A

Refrain



Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—
who forgives / all your sins
and heals all your dis- / eases,
who redeems your life / from the pit
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,
who satisfies your desires / with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,
so great is his love for those who / fear him;
as far as the east is / from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.
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

Romans 12:14–21

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

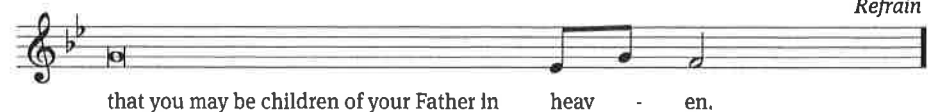
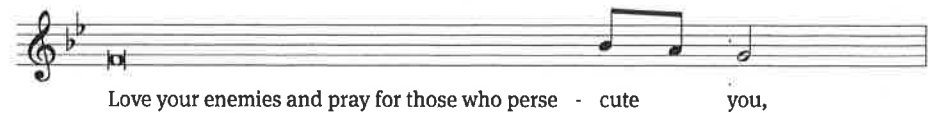
Matthew 5:44,45



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

²⁷"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 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 children 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

728 This Is My Will

CW 728

Sermon: Genesis 45:3-15 God Works In a Mysterious Way

8

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.

9

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.

767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CW 767

10

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 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.**

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.

730 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

CW 730

11

GOOD STEWARD REPORT

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD

One of the blessings for which we thank God are the many people who are willing workers at Good Steward. At our last meeting three board members were reelected to three-year terms. Our current board members are Steve Loehr (Chairman), Chuck Lukasek (Vice-Chairman), Denise Priem, Warren Johnson, Mimi Richmond, Paul Kapanke, Jim Beitlich, Marti Clark and Larry Gilbertson. We thank them for their willingness to serve on the board and for the other work which they do for Good Steward. If you have questions or suggestions for our store, please do not hesitate to talk to one of them.

We also thank God for our Store Manager, Jeff Essig, and the eight coordinators who work with him. They are hardworking and a great blessing to our store. And we thank God for the more than 200 volunteers who work at Good Steward. Without them we would not be able to provide the amount of help that we do give to Luther High School and area Lutheran elementary schools. More volunteers are welcome at any time.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD (2)

The financial report for 2024 shows us that God continues to pour out His blessings on our store. Total sales for last year were \$886,543, which is slightly more than a 10% increase over 2023. Because of God's grace and mercy, we were able to contribute \$295,500 to Luther High School. We were also able to give \$99,500 to Lutheran elementary schools. And we donated \$19,200 to various charitable organizations. We thank God for enabling us to do this work. And we pray that He will continue to bless us in the year which lies before us.

LOOKING AHEAD

Each year volunteers at Luther High School host an Appreciation Dinner for volunteers at Good Steward. This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Monday, April 28. Because our hosts do need to know how much food to prepare, we ask that those who plan to attend sign up for this dinner. The sign-up sheet will be found at the Good Steward Resale Shop.

Another date to remember is May 31. Volunteers who work at Good Steward for a minimum number of hours each year are given the privilege of nominating students at Luther or an area elementary school for a Good Steward grant. The time period to work for the privilege of nominating a student is June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025. For more information about the grant program, please contact Jeff at the store.

In addition to the merchandise which is at Good Steward, we do have a warehouse, which contains 8,686 boxes of additional merchandise. At the present time, we are looking for another warehouse or a piece of property on which we might build a new warehouse. Anyone who has helpful information about this is encouraged to contact one of our board members.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER HUMBLY IN LOVE (Gal. 5:13)



Our Weekly Walk with Jesus

Sunday, February 23

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class
9:30 am Worship Service
10:30 am Coffee hour
11:00 am BLSA Semi-annual Meeting at St. Mike's

Monday, February 24

Tuesday, February 25

10:00 am Bible Class
6:30 pm Bible Class

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 pm Midweek worship service with communion

Thursday, February 27

Friday, February 28

Saturday, March 1

Sunday, March 2

8:30 am Sunday School/Confirmation Class
9:30 am Worship Service with communion
10:30 am Coffee hour

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 12: no service

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

Sunday, February 16: 33

General: \$1100 Missions: \$25 Cap Imp: \$45

(Cap Imp includes a gift for Luther High School)

Total: \$1170

General: \$1100 Missions: \$25 Cap Imp.: \$45