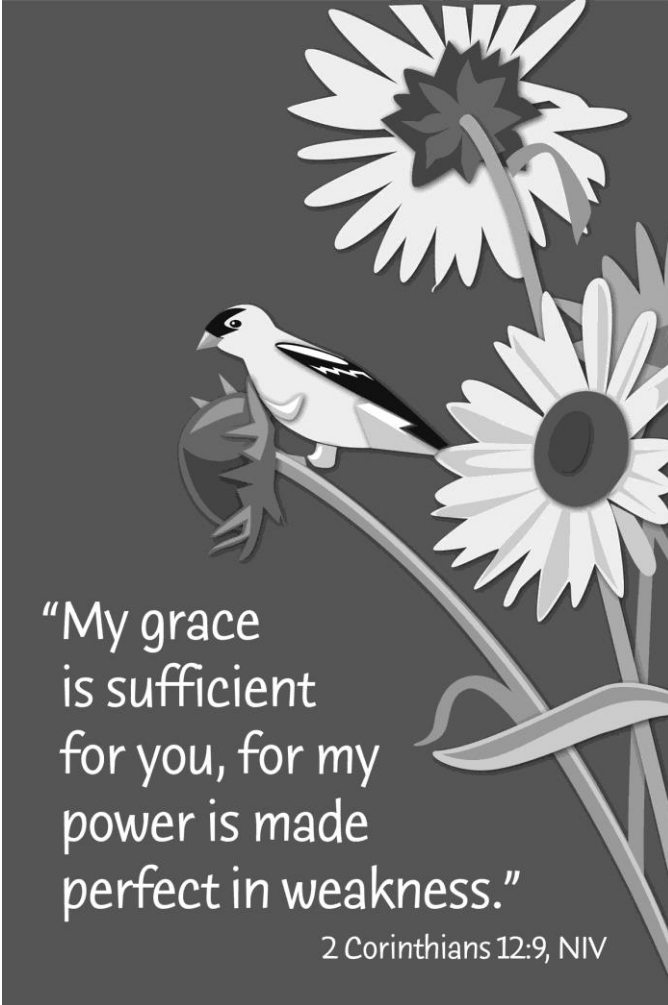




OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

We welcome you to the house of our true and living God for worship this Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany. In today's gospel lesson, Jesus revealed his glory as he powerfully and uniquely preached God's Word to his followers. He proclaimed to them – and to us – that what the world considers a blessing can often be a curse. Conversely, what we would normally consider curses and bad things can be, according to Jesus, hidden blessings and gifts from the Lord. May we rejoice, as the apostle Paul did, in our sufferings and hardships as we cherish God's grace for us. And may the Lord bless us as we give him our joy-filled worship!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith.

SERVING TODAY

- Ministers – Pastor Jeff Mahnke, Pastor Kevin Schnake
- Organist – Sam Wessel
- Ushers – Mark Krohn, Kurt Schubring

Next week – Heil

Acknowledgments

Morning Praise from Christian Worship

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The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Hymn

CW 778, stand for v. 3

Father, We Praise You



1 Fa - ther, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man-sions; ban - ish our
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
weak-ness, health and whole-ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion: thus we a - dore you.
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with-out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound-ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: attr. Gregory I, c. 540–604; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936

Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681

Text and tune: Public domain

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

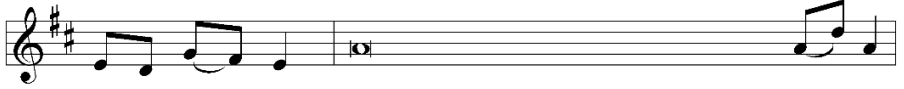
Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Jesus Christ is Lord of all:
praise and thanks to God!

Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



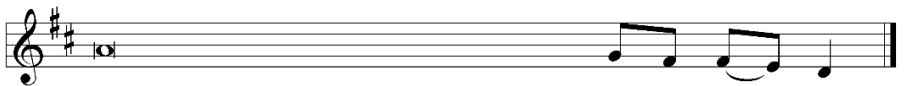
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Prayer for Grace

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.

Be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5–8

A blessed life is not connected to outward circumstances like health or wealth. Rather, the one who is blessed is the one who has been given the gift of faith, whose trust is in the LORD.

⁵This is what the LORD says. Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD. ⁶He will be like a juniper bush in the wasteland. He will not see good things when they come. He lives in a dry place in the wilderness, in a salty land where no one lives.

⁷But blessed is anyone who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸He will be like a tree planted by water. It sends out its roots to the stream. It does not fear the heat when it comes. Its leaves will remain green. It is not concerned about a time of drought. It does not stop producing fruit.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:7b–10

Paul had some infirmity he initially viewed as a weakness. He came to see it as a blessing as it forced him to rely on God's strength.

I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me, so that I would not become arrogant. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that he would take it away from me. ⁹And he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, because my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will be glad to boast all the more in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may shelter me. ¹⁰That is why I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For whenever I am weak, then am I strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 12:2

Alleluia. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.
The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation. Alleluia.

Stand

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17–26

In one of his most famous sermons Jesus teaches that the good things we seek are found in places we would least expect.

¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place with a large crowd of his disciples, and a large number of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, as well as from the coastal area of Tyre and Sidon. These people came to listen to him and to be healed of their diseases. ¹⁸Those who were troubled by unclean spirits were also cured. ¹⁹The whole crowd kept trying to touch him, because power was going out from him and healing them all. ²⁰He lifted up his eyes to his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, because yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

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

²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because of this: Your reward is great in heaven! The fact is, their fathers constantly did the same things to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, because you are receiving your comfort now. ²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, because you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, because you will be mourning and weeping. ²⁶Woe to you when all people speak well of you, because that is how their fathers constantly treated the false prophets.

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

CW 803
Day by Day



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will



send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the
I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will trust in
Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will hold me



bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to



trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005

Tune: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

Text: © 1992 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Tune: Public domain

Every Christian Has a Thorn... Such a Blessing!

- 1) because of its source
- 2) because of what it leads us to do
- 3) because of what it leads us to embrace

Thank Offering will be gathered as we sing the next hymn.

Members of Our Savior’s give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so. As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Hymn Response

CW 867

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior’s
 2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
 3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
 4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
 con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
 your Re - deem - er’s name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
 flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
 flee, that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 see that as your days your strength shall be. Refrain
 ty, still as your days your strength shall be. Refrain

Refrain

So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the
 vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;
 yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960 Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960
 Text and tune: © 2018 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. Integrity Music. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord, our strength and our song, increase our trust in you and deeply plant your Word into our hearts. Grant that by faith your people bear fruit to your glory. Blessed are all who trust in you.

In our weakness, you are our strength.

Your Son Jesus pronounced blessings on those who are poor, hungry, sad and hated. Lift all who are downcast.

Work through us so that we will be blessings to those in need.

Bring your blessing to many by leading them to faith as they may hear and believe your Word. **May we always find our strength and prosperity in you and in your never-failing grace to us.**

Bless the President of the United States, the governor of this state, and all of our local officials who govern and make decisions.

Open their hearts to your will and move them to work for the common good.

Your holy Word tells us that love is patient, kind, humble and forgiving. Pour your love into our hearts through your gospel promises to us in Word and Sacrament.

Empower us to love those around us not with words or speech only, but with actions and in truth.

Give your strength to those who struggle with thorns in the flesh. Let your grace be sufficient for them and make your power perfect in their weakness. Blessed are all who trust in you.

In our weakness, you are our strength.

Hear us now, dear Lord, as each of us comes to you in silent prayer about a particular thorn in the flesh that we, or a loved one, are struggling with.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, our Light and our Salvation, remove the darkness of sorrow and ignorance. Enlighten us with true wisdom, and give us sure hope and bold confidence in your ever present and never failing grace to us. Help us always to remember: Blessed are all who trust in you.

In our weakness, you are our strength. Amen.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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.

The Blessing

The grace of our Lord †Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

CW 721

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt.

Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Text and tune: Public domain

***Thank you for worshiping with us today.
May God richly bless your week!***

Today's Worship

Because no area pastors are available to serve us today, we will broadcast a recording of St. Peter's worship. Holy Communion will not be offered today.

Next Call Meeting

We hope to hold the next Call meeting either Monday, March 3 or Thursday, March 6. We're awaiting confirmation of a date from Pastor Jensen.

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior's vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.

Memorials & Gifts

We thank Bob Bishop for his gift to our school children for future activities/treats.

We thank Bob & Janice Gresens for their gift given in memory of their friend, Gary Ahrens. Blessed be his memory.

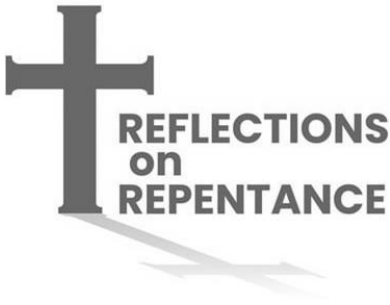
Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.

OWLS Meeting

The March OWLS meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18 (note date change) at 11:30 at Immanuel Lutheran, Mosinee. Presentation (last minute change) will be by Joy Peterson demonstrating and explaining chair caning. Again, guests are encouraged to attend, all are welcome. Questions please contact Evan or Sandy Dobberfuhr, 715-693-1337. If no answer please leave a message.

Join Us for Fellowship Before Worship!

Coffee, juice, and fresh donuts are available each Sunday before our worship service begins, around 10:35 or so. Our Savior's members (and visitors) are encouraged to come to church a little earlier than you perhaps normally would, around 10:35, to enjoy fellowship as a family of God's people here at Our Savior's. If you are interested in helping with setup and/or clean up, please speak to a member of the Church Council.



Ash Wednesday Is Coming

This year Ash Wednesday falls on **March 5th** and it marks the beginning of Lent. This is the church year's somber and serious season as we repent of our sins and remember the price Jesus paid for our forgiveness. A special service with Holy Communion will be held at Our Savior's at 1:00 p.m. If you cannot attend worship in the afternoon, consider attending worship at the St. Peter Schofield Campus at 4:30 or 7:00 p.m.

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now on Your Holy Passion”

Special midweek Lent services lasting about 40-45 minutes will be held on the five Wednesdays that follow Ash Wednesday at 1:00 pm and at St. Peter on Thursdays at 5:00 and 7:00 pm at the Schofield Campus. As is tradition, we will listen to the gospel account of Jesus' suffering and death to atone for our sins and those of the whole world. “Reflections on Repentance” will be the theme for our special Lent messages based on the verses of King David's Psalm 51. There will be a pulpit rotation involving the pastors from the following area WELS churches: St Peter (Schofield), Immanuel (Mosinee), Mountain of the Lord (Rib Mountain), Redeemer (Weston), and St Matthew's (Marathon City).

Martin Luther College is accepting applications for a full-time **Human Resources Generalist**, a part-time **Bookstore Assistant**, and a part-time **Men's Assistant Soccer Coach**. Interested individuals should apply online at mlc-wels.edu/hr/.

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	10:00 AM 10:35 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School and Bible Class Coffee & Donuts Fellowship Worship
Wednesday	8:00 AM	OSS Donuts with Dad
Sunday (3/2)	10:00 AM 10:35 AM 11:00 AM	Sunday School and Bible Class Coffee & Donuts Fellowship Worship

Growing Together

February 16, 2025

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Initial Env</u>
\$2,891.96	\$195.00	\$65.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$10.00

<u>Bldg Maint</u>	<u>Publications</u>	<u>School Activities</u>	<u>School Fees</u>
\$40.00	\$15.00	\$100.00	\$983.33

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,230

Attendance: Sunday, February 16 – 70

In a new series “When Cancer Comes,” James Aderman, David Haag, and Tim Gumm take readers on three remarkable journeys that involve the dreaded word *cancer* but quickly guide their readers into God’s Word where they prove cancer—and all that comes with it—is no match for the eternal, healing power of Christ.

Readers will find the studies of Jeremiah, Job, and Paul and their reactions to their varied trials to be worthy of reflection—notably, their counterreactions when shown God’s forgiveness, encouragement, hope, and comfort.

Although the series is based on these authors’ personal experiences with a cancer diagnosis (either their own or a loved one) and the journey that followed that diagnosis, one doesn’t need to have a personal experience with cancer to appreciate what the authors offer their readers. Whether complaining about, questioning, or doubting God’s providential decisions in the life of a Christian, all are universal as a reaction to the melee of difficult situations and hardships experienced in life. *God, Can I Complain?*, *God, Why is This Happening?*, and *God, Where’s My Hope?* are must-reads for everyone.

God, Can I Complain?

Readers will be led on a journey alongside author James Aderman as he shares the lessons he learned through his personal journey with cancer. (Read a little about Aderman's journey.) Studying Jeremiah—whom Aderman calls the Bible's "premier complainer"—will help readers understand why we complain and what to do with our complaints. Aderman helps direct our thoughts and concerns from self-centered complaining into a more godly direction, focusing our attention on Jesus who provides the forgiveness that will be the only antidote to the results of our complaints.

Appreciated will be the prayer Aderman includes after each chapter.

God, Why is This Happening?

This book shares the cancer journey of author Ken Haag's wife, Lisa. Haag walks the reader through many of the emotional and physical ups and downs of their lives. He does so with an honest and soul-searching style that will be appreciated by those looking to understand cancer's seeming control over the life of cancer patients and those who love them.

Haag shares how he dealt with questions like "Why me? Why her? Why us? Why?" by taking readers into the book of Job. He does an amazing job of clarifying how God's love is the only answer we really need to life's questions. Readers will also find a helpful section where Haag offers examples of ways to comfort those on a cancer journey.

God, Where's My Hope?

Using Paul as a study of patient endurance and incredible faith and hope in Jesus through challenges encountered throughout his ministry, author Tim Gumm shares the challenges of his wife Linda's cancer diagnosis and journey. Along the way they were reminded that strength in weakness is only found in Jesus, a truth supported over and over by Paul's story.

With a gentle but powerful approach, Gumm addresses many inevitable questions readers will identify with as they too struggle with cancer, pain, suffering, and loneliness. He spends much-appreciated time reflecting on the importance of the body of Christ to those suffering from fear and loneliness.

A look at books published by Northwestern Publishing House. For more information, visit nph.net or call 800-662-6022.

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