



# SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

10:00 A.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7045 LYNDAL AVENUE SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Our Mission Statement

*To Put the Love of Jesus into Action,  
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

### PRELUDE

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*All Nature Sings*

Joy Bells  
Greg Peterson, Flute

### + CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
✠ one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**  
**Forgive us for the ways we act**  
**with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**  
**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**  
**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**  
**we give in to scarcity and fear;**  
**we assume the worst about one another.**  
**Cleanse us from our faults**  
**and release us from their grasp.**  
**Show us your lovingkindness.**  
**Restore our hearts and repair your world,**  
**that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**+ GATHERING HYMN**

*Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us*  
vss. 1, 2 & 4

ELW 707

**+ GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**+ HYMN OF PRAISE**

*This is the Feast*

ELW p. 149

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



! Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Continued...*

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**+ PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, 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.

**ANTHEM**

*Lord, Be Here Among Us*

Chorale

**PSALM** Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

*Read responsively.*

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
**for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.**

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

**The Lord will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.

**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

**Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**

But the meek shall inherit the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

**The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their refuge in the time of trouble.**

The LORD helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

**OLD TESTAMENT 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. 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. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 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. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 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. 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. 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. 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.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Word of God, word of life.    **Thanks be to God.**

**+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia*

ELW 174

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

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

**+ GOSPEL**    Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 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. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 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. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*On Struggling to Forgive*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

ELW 605

**INSTALLATION OF THE CALL COMMITTEE**

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, in times of change and transition you provide leaders to guide and direct us. Through them, you lead us over the rough places, and comfort us when we are afraid. We pray today that you will send your Spirit to be with these leaders and each of us during this time of discernment. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Do you, the people of Oak Grove Lutheran Church promise to hold this Call Committee in prayer?

**Congregation: We do.**

Pastor: Will you accept their leadership, support them in their work and encourage them in their deliberation.

**Congregation: We will.**

Pastor: (to the Call Committee)

You have been prayerfully selected to serve this congregation in selecting a pastoral candidate. You have been asked to give generously of your time. You have been entrusted with this responsibility on behalf of the whole congregation. Do you accept this responsibility and trust?

**Call Committee: We do.**

Pastor: Will you faithfully participate in the process, support one another in meetings, and call upon the Spirit for guidance and direction in all you do?

**Call Committee: We will.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord, bless this committee,

**Congregation: its work and its decisions, that through them we might all be strengthened to serve you. Bless each member of this committee, that he or she might have the compassion, wisdom and energy to fulfill this responsibility. Keep us strong in faith and resolute in proclaiming the gospel to all people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

#### **+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes with:  
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

#### **+ SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**



## OFFERING

### + OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace,  
your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.  
Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.  
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always.  
Amen.

### + GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+ SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

ELW 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**+ 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.

# LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 112-113

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

ELW 490

BLESSING

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God,  
at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.  
Strengthen us for service,  
and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.  
In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen.**

**+ BENEDICTION**

The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

**+ SENDING FORTH HYMN**

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

*ELW 873*

vss. 1, 3 & 6

**+ DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## **Oak Grove Core Values Statement**

**Love** one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

**Welcome** all people into fellowship with hospitality.

**Accept** others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

**Worship** God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

**Grow** in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals and as a faith community.

**Serve** the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents, and resources with the community and the world.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Sunday Coffee Hour**

Did you know that there is a coffee hour downstairs in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning from 9-10 am before worship? Great fellowship and treats—come join us!

### **Nomination Forms**

Would you like to nominate a pastoral candidate? Nomination forms are available in the office. Please submit nominations by this Friday, **February 28** by placing completed forms in the envelope in the church office.

### **Parents of High School Seniors**

In 2023 we started a new ministry to remind our high school graduates that their Oak Grove family is always here to surround them with warmth and support by making them a lap quilt. In order to design and craft a special quilt for each student, we need some info from you. Please tell us about your student (future plans, school graduating from, favorite color and animal, hobbies, etc.), by email or text to Marilyn Jacobson or Kathie Curry by this Friday, **February 28**.

### ***The Messenger Coming Via Email in April***

Starting in April, *The Messenger* newsletter will be coming to you via email! You are set to receive the newsletter if you have been receiving the weekly "What's happening at Oak Grove Lutheran Church," email updates in your inbox. Please let Amy know if you would like to add your email address to the distribution list. Paper copies of *The Messenger* will be available in the narthex and office. If you prefer to have a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please let Amy know at (612) 869-4917 or [amy@oakgrovelutheran.org](mailto:amy@oakgrovelutheran.org). Thank you!

### **Got Pop Cans?**

We are still collecting pop cans (and only pop cans) in the trash can outside the elevator on the bottom level. The money goes toward helping kids go to camp! Thanks!

### **Sponsor a Camper!**

Your support of our Oak Grove youth is always appreciated, especially this year with the cost of attending Camp Wapo increasing 8%. The Youth will have multiple fundraisers this year, but it would be very helpful if you are able to sponsor a camper or two. Please reach out to Kelli Olson for more information. Thank you all so much for your ongoing support of our youth!

*Kelli Olson & Your Oak Grove Youth*

### **Building Needs Forms**

If you see something around the building the needs attention, please find a yellow Building Needs form on the small table outside of the church office. You may note whether it concerns a need for "cleaning," "consumables" or "repair" and describe the issue. Please leave your name and date, so that we may follow-up as needed.

### **Building Key Inventory Project: Today After Worship**

Amy will be in the office after worship for a special Key Inventory Day, to assist those folks who are not able to come to office hours during the week! Keys will be physically imprinted with a unique number and a key record card will be completed. Working together, we can make Oak Grove a more secure building!

## **Spanish Classes**

Spanish classes began in early February and continue every Tuesday through April 29<sup>th</sup> – right here at Oak Grove! Supper is offered first at 6:00 pm if you're interested, otherwise classes start at 6:30 pm and go until 8:00 pm. Suggested payment is \$125 (less than \$10 per class). There are three levels available: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced. If you have any questions, contact Lidia Grabow.

## **Tour and Winter Concerts: Healing Body, Mind, Spirit**

Join the National Lutheran Choir (NLC), under the leadership of Jennaya Robison, for *Healing Body, Mind, Spirit*. Hear the NLC at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas on Sunday, March 2, 4:00pm. This performance will include a premiere of a new three-movement composition called "Three Songs for Healing" by Hans Bridger Heruth with text by Brian Newhouse. Additionally, this concert will include works by Karen E. Black, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Eric Whitacre, Moses Hogan, and more. Adults and seniors: \$35, students: pay what you can, 18 and under: free. Discounts for groups of 10+! Call the NLC Office at (612) 722-2301 for group tickets. For tickets and more information, please visit [NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com).



# OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S GUIDING STATEMENTS

## Vision Statement

Oak Grove Lutheran Church is a congregation called by God, blessed with new life in Christ, and led by God's Spirit.

In response to what God has done for us,  
we hold this vision for Oak Grove:

We will learn and grow in our relationship with God,  
both as individuals and as a congregation.

We will be a warm and accepting community, reflecting and proclaiming  
God's gracious love in a spirit of celebration.

We will compassionately address the hurts and hopes  
of the community and world around us.

## Mission Statement

To put the love of Jesus into action,  
as we welcome, serve and love all people.

## Core Values Statement

**Love** one another with compassion and care, just as Christ loves us.

**Welcome** all people into fellowship with hospitality.

**Accept** others as they are, treating each person with respect and dignity.

**Worship** God through music and ministry, reflecting our Lutheran heritage while embracing new ways of worship.

**Grow** in faith rooted in the Gospel, both as individuals  
and as a faith community.

**Serve** the Lord by generously sharing our faith, time, talents,  
and resources with the community and the world.

## **OAK GROVE EVENTS THIS WEEK**

### **Sunday, February 23**

- 9:00 am Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 am Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Sunday School, SS Rooms
- 11:00 am Key Inventory, Office

### **Monday, February 24**

### **Tuesday, February 25**

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting, Library
- 10:00 am Care Club, Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 pm Bible Study, Fireside Room

### **Wednesday, February 26**

- 9:30 am Bible Study, Fireside Room
- 6:30 pm Confirmation, Fireside Room & SS Room

### **Thursday, February 27**

### **Friday, February 28**

Offices Closed

### **Saturday, March 1**

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study, Library
- 9:00 am Joy Bells Practice, Sanctuary

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Friday, February 28** — Due date to submit Pastoral Candidate Nominations

**Saturday, March 1** — Girl Scout Drive-Thru Cookie Booth, Parking Lot, 12-4 pm

**Wednesday, March 5** — Ash Wednesday Worship, 7 pm

**Tuesday, March 11** — Council Meeting, 7 pm

**Wednesdays: March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9** — Lenten Worship, 7 pm

**Thursday, April 17** — Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 pm, House of Prayer

**Sunday, April 13** — Palm Sunday Worship, 10 am & Youth Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, April 20** — Easter Sunday Worship, 10 am

**Worship Leaders for Sunday, February 23**

**Assisting Minister:** Carol Swenson

**Scripture Reader:** Kelli Olson

**Communion Servers:** Julie Tvete and Jeanne Hanson

**Worship Leaders for next Sunday, March 2**

**Assisting Minister:** *(needed)*

**Scripture Reader:** Jeanne Hanson

**Communion Servers:** Margaret Olson and Jan Philibert

**Media – Facebook Live:** Les and Becky Hanson; Julie, Curtis and Elisa Tvete;  
Pam Krause; and Kathie Curry

**Sound Team:** Hermès Radison, Al Tuff, Mike Tveite, and Curtis Tvete

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*Oak Grove Lutheran Church sits on traditional lands of the Dakota people.  
We acknowledge, with gratitude, the many blessings we receive from this land.*

*Children are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available  
in the library or ask an usher for help in locating them.*

**Restrooms:** *Located downstairs near the fellowship lounge.*

**Hearing devices:** *Personal hearing devices are available through the ushers.*

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If you're done with this bulletin, please leave it in the pew. It will be recycled.

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# Oak Grove Lutheran Church

## Staff

**Rev. Lee Hallstrom, *Interim Pastor***  
pastorlee@oakgrovelutheran.org

Kelli Olson, *Education Coordinator*  
kelli@oakgrovelutheran.org

Jeanne Hanson, *Financial Manager*  
jeanne@oakgrovelutheran.org

Amy Hanson, *Office Manager*  
amy@oakgrovelutheran.org

Erin Draeger, *Day Care Director*

Richard Jefferson, *Librarian*

## Music Staff

Morva Klein, *Organist*

Carol Swenson, *Chorale*

Julie Tvete and Elisa Tvete, *Bell Choirs*



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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm