

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parker, South Dakota

Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Pastor

Music Leaders: Shirley Oswald, Deone Christensen, Grace Reiffenberger, Michele Reiffenberger

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Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 24, 2019

PRELUDE, VISUAL PRAYERS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We have gathered from our different places to worship here.

All: **How good it is to worship together in unity!**

Leader: We come from our different occupations, our diverse activities.

All: **How good it is to worship together in unity!**

Leader: We come as unique individuals, bound together in the love of Christ.

All: **How good it is to worship together in unity!**

Leader: We celebrate the fact that we are God's beloved children. We welcome each other in the name of Christ and proclaim our shared mission:

All: **"We believe we are forgiven and saved by faith in Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. As people of God, through love, we are God's hands. We are called to invite and welcome everyone into the fellowship of believers. We worship together, teach His word, pray for, encourage and uplift each other. We witness to His love and forgiveness to our congregation, community and world."** *(Written by members from Grace Lutheran)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord of the just and the unjust, we confess that your ways puzzle us, and your commands are difficult. It is not easy to bless those who insult us and to pray for those who abuse us.

All: **You summon us to love the ungrateful and the selfish just as we love those who are kind and generous. This, too, is a hard demand.**

Leader: In your mercy, God, forgive us. For we have cursed those who have cursed us. We have heaped scorn on the selfish, rather than love.

All: **Deliver us from bitterness. Rescue us from resignation. And lift us from despair to hope and trust in your mercy and justice. Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God is the Creator who calls forth light out of darkness. God is the One who restores the earth after the flood. God is the One who makes all things new.

All: **We are made new in Christ. May we go and share the Good News of God's love, forgiveness, healing and restoration. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

Blue Hymnal #621

(Led by a music video as a time of peaceful prayer...)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Living God, in Christ you make all things new.

All: **Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

THE READING RESPONSE

"Thanks Be to God!" (After each reading)

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 37:1-11

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Only a Prayer Away"

Sunday School Children

KID TALK

"Dear God, Let My Love Be Stronger Than My Anger"

SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain **standing** for The Gospel)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:27-38

(Pew Bible p. 49 – New Testament)

GOSPEL RESPONSES

"Glory to You, O Lord" (After The Gospel is announced)

"Praise to You, O Christ" (After The Gospel is read)

SERMON

"Loving Our Enemies"

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

ELW 779

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Together, let us proclaim our shared faith:

All: We are not alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new. We trust God, who calls us to be the church; to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified, dead and risen; our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Congregational response after each petition of "Lord, in your mercy:" "Hear our prayer.")

RETURNING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"Money is not the only commodity that is joyful to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give." ~Steve Goodier~

Music Video – "Masterpiece" (Danny Gokey)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"We Are Called"

ELW 720 (vs. 1 & Refrain)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Loving God, your heart is wide open to us.

All: You have given to us freely and taught us to return to you a portion of what we have. Grant us glad and generous hearts, and help us be as open to you as you are to us. Help us use your gifts wisely and for the benefit of all your people. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Leader: Gracious God, in the comings and goings of our week, let us notice you.

All: In the beginnings and endings of activities, let us begin and end with you.

Leader: In the stopping and starting, working and resting, let us be ever mindful of your presence.

All: As we turn to leave from this place today, we acknowledge that your Spirit goes with us. Thank you. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

ELW 858

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another!

All: Thanks Be to God!

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! May your soul be nourished, your faith be strengthened and your life be touched by God in a special way while you're here.

This Week at GRACE

Wed: 4:00 pm: Pre-Confirmation
5:00 pm: Confirmation
6:00 pm: Luther League @ Mercy Meals, Yankton
6:30 pm: Worship (Holy Communion)
7:00 pm: Choir
7:00 pm: Luther League
Sun: 9:00 am: Worship (Holy Communion)
10:00 am: Sunday School

Attendance 2/17/2019: 81

Last week's offering total was \$1302.00. This includes Sunday's and Wednesday's offerings, Simply Giving, and direct EFT through First Savings Bank Our weekly offering goal is \$2,600.00. We were \$1,298.00 under goal. Remember - to ensure all bills and salaries of the church are paid, we need to meet our weekly goal!

Thank you to the following people for helping with our Worship service this morning: ushers Roger & Sue Deutsch, reader Nikki Allcock, and A/V assistants Grace & Anna Reiffenberger.

Announcement:

The March newsletter is in your mailbox. Please take your copy home with you today. Extra copies of the newsletter can be found on the shelf in the narthex. If you'd like to receive the newsletter via email, please contact the church office at emilygraceluth@iw.net.



Every Wednesday during Lent, supper will once again be served before Worship at Grace.

Each week, volunteers from the congregation will put on their "chef's hats" and will plan, prepare, and serve a meal.

Lenten Suppers will be served every Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning March 13. If you would like to help serve, please sign up on the bulletin board.