



*unexpected*  
**TRUTHS**

## **FORGIVENESS IS FOR ME**



### **GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

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# WELCOME TO GRACE!

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We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

## CONTACT US...

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Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

|                                                                                        |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
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| Rev. Jasper Sellnow                                                                    | x303 |
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## AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

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**Preaching Minister:** Pastor Jacobson

**Liturgist:** Pastor Sellnow

**Senior ushers:** 8:00 AM – Eoghan Hill / Cash Hill  
10:30 AM – John Sullivan

**Pianist:** Lara Johnson

**A/V Team:** 8:00 AM – Jon Scheel / Tracey Moreland  
10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

# ABOUT THE THEME

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*Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. It is expected that humans will defend themselves, lash out when attacked, hold grudges, and bite back. So, when human beings hear that they are forgiven, they may even be suspicious or skeptical.*

*Jesus tells a parable that contrasts the forgiveness of God with our own unforgiving sinful nature. God forgives our huge debt. Who can comprehend such unexpected mercy? Certainly not unmerciful servants, who refuse to forgive small debts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Setting 3 (CW 188)**

**HYMN: FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE**

CW 733

*Please stand*

### INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

### DECLARATION OF GRACE

CW 189

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

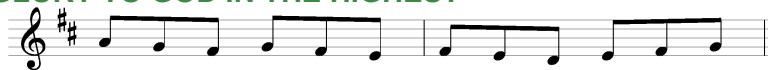
**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 191



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For  
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

*Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman*

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## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15–21

### **Joseph was quick to forgive his brothers.**

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup>'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup>His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup>So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ADULT CHOIR (8:00)

## GRADES PREK-8 (10:30)

*"Only by Grace"*

*"Christ the Vine" (CW 709)*

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:29—5:2

### **Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church.**

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

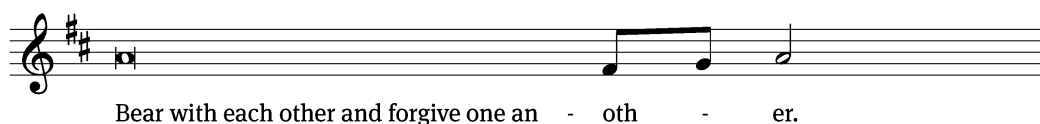
Colossians 3:13



### Refrain



### Tone



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## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

***The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.***

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

*Please be seated*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*At this time, children are invited to the front of the church to hear a special children's message from the Pastor.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY: GOD LOVES ME DEARLY

CW 583

### SERMON

Matthew 18:21–35

## ***FORGIVE LIKE GOD***

*Please stand*

### 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.**

*Please be seated*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

**Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

**Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

**Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

### *Special Intercessions*

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

**Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

## OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

## HYMN: HIS MERCY IS MORE

CW 579

*Please stand*

## PRAYER

**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.**

## HYMN: JESUS PAID IT ALL

CW 562

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

## **FORGIVE LIKE GOD**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

What is “the kingdom of heaven”? Why is this term important for Jesus’ parable?

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Were you *forced* by a parent to apologize to (or to forgive) a brother or sister? Describe that step-by-step process. How is the step-by-step path of “forgiveness from the heart” different?

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How does Jesus in this parable *and* in his ministry on the cross help us forgive like God?

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How does the first lesson account of Joseph and his brothers help us to forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart? What modern or personal story of “uncommon” forgiveness can you share to help your Grace Group?

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In the Apostles’ Creed we confess, “I believe ... in the forgiveness of sins.” In the Lord’s Prayer we petition our heavenly Father, “Forgive us our sins.” How should we understand the inclusion of “as we forgive those who sin against us”?

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