

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
February 2, 2025, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Christian Magnell

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN *“Nobody Loves Me Like You”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lord God, we thank you for the opportunity to worship this morning.

Help us to hear from you and to wrestle with your Word.

Lord Jesus, you prayed for your followers to be one.

We ask that you would unite us, not with buildings or denominations, but by your Spirit.

Father, throughout our lives, there are times we turn against you, against each other, and walk in sin. Show us those places in our lives. *(time for reflection)*

Lord God, we’ve sinned against you. We’ve ignored the people around us. We fall short in things we know. We also sin in ways we don’t even know. We ask each day for forgiveness, for a new start, for awareness of our brokenness and comfort from your Gospel. Forgive us and renew us.

For the sake of Christ, we are forgiven. Let’s walk in that grace and strive to extend it to others wherever we go!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON *“Made for a Purpose”*

BIBLE PRESENTATION

“Jesus Loves Me”

JaKobe and Kinslea (10:30)

HYMN *“Lord, I Need You”*

READING: Ephesians 3:1-21

Paul concludes this chapter with a prayer: he asks God to strengthen the Ephesians as they know and walk in God’s love.

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you,³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into

the mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴ For this reason I bow

my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

This is the last part of a prayer Jesus prayed for those who would follow him, including us!

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved

me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

HYMN

“Death Was Arrested”

SERMON “Strengthened by God’s Love – Ephesians Week 2”

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD’S PRAYER
MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION
PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

Amen!

CLOSING SONG

“My Lighthouse”

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

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**We? – February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

**“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...” - John 17:20**

When I’m talking of sports teams, I will often say “we.” I will say something like “we didn’t play too well.” If you think about it, it’s a bit ridiculous since I wasn’t playing. When I’m talking about the Wisconsin Badgers, I guess it makes some sense, since I’m an alum and I can rightly talk about “my school.” It’s still not really a “we,” but it makes some sense.

When it comes to professional sports, it makes less sense. If I’m talking about an MLB, NFL, NHL or NBA team, there is absolutely no “we.” I can say, of the Twins, “we won the World Series” in 1991, and you would know that I’m not implying I was playing on the field. It’s a figure of speech. To be frank, I’ll continue to use it, even though it doesn’t make literal sense. The reality is that I’m simply a fan, and beyond the ticket price paying a very small part of the players’ salaries, I have zero connection.

I say all of that because for today’s Gospel reading, YOU are mentioned. Jesus prays not only for the people present but for all who would believe. That’s you. You are in Scripture. You were in the prayers of Jesus – deep in His heart long before you were born. While not many places in this world afford us the chance to be “we,” when it comes to God, you are part of the “we.”

Spend some time this week asking how God wants to use you. What do you bring – in terms of time, talent and treasure? How can you serve? How can you advance the Kingdom of God of which we are a part?

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