

# Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sunday, February 23, 2025

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## *Mission Statement*

*By the grace of God, Gracious Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church being of one body in Christ Jesus, made up of many parts, and having many gifts; provides a place for all to worship, praise, and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. We teach the Word of God and spread the Good News through our service to one another and community. We encourage all to come and share their various gifts and talents.*

## Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

### Call to Worship

### The Civil Rights Movement

Tan pg. 60

When God created man and woman, the freedom of persons was already established.

**We are made in the image of God, African Americans, as well as all others. From one blood has God created all the races and nations of the earth.**

Galatians declares that in Christ, regarding freedom and equality, there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. (See. Gal. 3:28)

**Likewise, during the founding of the United States of America, the writers of our Constitution proclaimed human rights for all.**

However, these rights were not granted to most African Americans.

**In the 1950's and 60's, we experienced one of the proudest times in our history, the modern civil rights movement.**

The promise of freedom, the vote, and equality, affirmed in the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, became more achievable for African Americans.

**We are thankful for Rosa Parks, Medgar Evers, James Farmer, and Fannie Lou Hamer. Nothing could quench their thirst for freedom. It was their time and they would not be denied.**

The events associated with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and the Congress of Racial Equality have changed our lives.

**During this time, Brown vs. The Board of Education, The NAACP, the March on Washington, the work of the National Urban League, the Black Church, and other religious communities united people against racial injustice.**

Media coverage of the brutal treatment of black Americans awakened the conscience of America that led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. We would not be moved even though confronted by police dogs and water hoses.

**May God help us to exercise more seriously our right to vote and our pursuit of equality. God strengthen us in the ongoing struggle for freedom, civil rights, and justice.**

**Opening Hymn**

**We Have Come into this House**

**Tan #174**

**Prayer of the Day** (*congregation stands*)

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**

**First Reading – Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

**Chantal Lang-Freeman**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

**Responsive Reading – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of those who are evil  
or be envious of those who do wrong;

<sup>2</sup> **for like the grass they will soon wither,  
like green plants they will soon die away.**

<sup>3</sup> Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

**<sup>4</sup> Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him and he will do this:

**<sup>6</sup> He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

**<sup>8</sup> Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;  
do not fret—it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For those who are evil will be destroyed,  
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.

**<sup>10</sup> A little while, and the wicked will be no more;  
though you look for them, they will not be found.**

<sup>11</sup> But the meek will inherit the land  
and enjoy peace and prosperity.

**<sup>39</sup> The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> The Lord helps them and delivers them;  
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,  
because they take refuge in him.

**Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**      **Chantal Lang-Freeman**

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” <sup>36</sup> How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the

heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. <sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

*(congregation stands)*

**Gospel Acclamation                      The Lord Is My Light                      Red #61**

**The Holy Gospel according to Luke 6:27-38. Glory to you O Lord!**

<sup>27</sup> “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

**Devotional Music                      Your Grace and Mercy                      Tan #270**

**Sermon.....Minister Doshia Strong**

*(congregation stands)*

**Hymn of the Day                      Order My Steps                      Tan #333**

**The Apostle’s Creed** *(congregation stands)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, he was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Prayers of the Community**

**Lay Assistant: God of grace,  
Congregation response: hear our prayer.**

### **Announcements**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Benediction**

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

**Closing Hymn                      God Be with You Till We Meet Again                      Tan #634**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good morning and welcome to Gracious Saviour. We are grateful that you have chosen to worship and honor the Lord's name with us. If you are new to this church, we would like to thank you for worshiping with us and we warmly welcome you into the Gracious Saviour family as our brothers and our sisters.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY  
THIS MONTH!! God bless you and enjoy your day!!**

### **Monthly Food Pantry**

The Gracious Saviour Community Food Pantry is open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 11am – 1pm. The next food pantry day is **Thursday, March 6, 2025**. People can call the food pantry line at 313-634-1311.

### **Women of Gracious Saviour**

The women will meet at the church on Saturday, March 1st at 11:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us.

### **A Modern Black History Program**

Dinner and program will be Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm.

### **Southeast Michigan Women of the ELCA Women's Luncheon**

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual **Honoring Women Luncheon is Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** at Holy Cross Lutheran in Livonia. Registration forms are available on the table at the back.

### **Tithes and Offering**

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

#### **Ways to give –**

- Offering basket on the table in the Narthex
- Cash App - \$GraciousSaviourLC
- <https://www.gracioussaviourlutheran.org/donate/>
- Mail to the church: 19484 James Couzens Hwy., Detroit, 48235.

**Thank you to our visitors. Thank you, family, for your continued support.**

## **Gracious Saviour Meeting and Worship Links**

Zoom Dial-in Numbers are the same for **ALL** Zoom Worship Services and meetings:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

### **Adult Sunday School (Sundays, 9:00 a.m.)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83844644439?pwd=dkIxVitIbFhRVXpXNHBISU90WkYwQT09> Meeting ID: 83844644439 Passcode: 751445

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### **Gracious Saviour Worship Service (Sundays, 11am)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83956719308?pwd=SXd2K1VLbmdHMmZtVFdla0VjVWtaUT09> Meeting ID: 83956719308 Password: 363447

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### **Gracious Saviour Church Council Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:30 pm)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85253404622?pwd=YnN2WVFTQjZoK3pta2JOb2F6UW1SZz09> Meeting ID: 85253404622 Passcode: 087661

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### **Gracious Saviour Wednesday noon Bible Study**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87955430045?pwd=Wk93dCtjNGtIMUI3c2wrSnJwaWZZdz09> Meeting ID: 87955430045 Passcode: 879423

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### **Gracious Saviour Wednesday evening Bible Study at 6:00 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87218267272?pwd=cUhHeWcxU3ZKRWc1bXdjNlVRM1VuUT09>

Meeting ID: 87218267272 Passcode: 750061

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### **Gracious Saviour Jerusalem Ministry Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays at 6:30 pm)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87130015039?pwd=SVo1bEg2eGRHWtB5c2o1cTFsdml1Zz09> Meeting ID: 87130015039 Passcode: 672576