

Grace Lutheran Church

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Out of Love

When people came to be baptized by John in the Jordan River, they did it because they knew their lives and actions had fallen short of God's commandments, so they came to have their sins forgiven by John through a traditional Jewish custom of ritual washing. It was "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3). So when Jesus shows up at the river to be baptized, John is understandably surprised. Jesus has not committed any sin, so John refuses to baptize him. But Jesus insists.

Jesus gets baptized not because he has to, but because he wants to show us that his life is not separated from ours. He does it out of love. For the same reason, Jesus goes on to eat and live with those regarded as public sinners: prostitutes, tax collectors, and criminals. For the same reason, Jesus touches lepers and those considered by society to be unclean. For the same reason, Jesus submits to crucifixion. He does it not because he has to, but out of love.

This pattern of voluntary humility and solidarity is the pattern for our life as well. We share in his baptism, in his love, and in his cross. When we gather together in worship, it is not because we have to, but out of love for God and for each other. When we serve our neighbors in volunteering, when we share in the pain of others, when we open our resources and lives to strangers in need, we do all of this not because we have to, but out of love.

In Jesus we embrace a faith that is free: Our sins are already forgiven; there is nothing left to prove; there is nothing left to lose; there is a whole world to gain . . . out of love.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2017

The season of Epiphany begins January 6th (the 12th day after Christmas) and marks the revelation of the baby Jesus as the Son of God. The Epiphany season, therefore, celebrates the spread of the Good News from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The color is green, for growth, as Scripture texts explore the mission of the church in the world.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre- Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able.

Gathering Hymn

When Jesus Came to Jordan

WOV 647 (blue book)

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.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant Israel is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever keep it from fulfilling its task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the new assignment of the servant is to bring light to the nations.

☐ A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

- ☐ God, we thank you for your Word,
- ☑ **the story of your grace.**

Psalm 29



- ¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.
- ²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴**The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. ☒**
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**
- ⁷The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸**The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. ☒**
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. ☒

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A A reading from **Acts**:

³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

L God, we thank you for your Word,

G the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

P The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness."

Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

☐ Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God’s justice, peace, and healing.

A brief silence.

☐ Pour out your Spirit of unity, triune God. Renew our lives in the promises of baptism. Hold us together in the oneness of the body of Christ. Empower us to be one as you are one. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our synod companion churches, St Matthew Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, First Baptist Church in Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit of life, eternal God. Move over polluted waters. Breathe on barren fields. Strengthen ancient cedars and oaks. Engage us in your care of sea, land, and sky. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit of wisdom, holy God. Guide politicians and military officials as they wrestle with complex situations. Grant them courage and compassion to work for peace in every nation. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit of justice, gracious God. Heal the pain of all who are victims of crime. Be present with all who are imprisoned. Reconcile broken relationships within communities. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Rick Palmer, Victoria Steadman, John Burdick, Sharon Duits, Danny Gillons, Reba Lydy, Gale Morway, Oliver Cheeseman and Abigail Kopf.*

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Pour out your Spirit of love, glorious God. Sustain all who knit prayer shawls, sew quilts, and provide housing for our neighbors who are homeless. Surround those who seek warmth and shelter with grace-filled advocates. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Pour out your Spirit of peace, resurrecting God. Bring all who grieve into a community rooted in you. Uphold them with your grace and keep us all grounded in your promise of life eternal. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning

After the usher passes your pew, you are invited to drop your coins in the metal bowl at the front of the nave. These gifts are sent to Barry County Cares.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

Create in Me

ELW 187 (red book)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me.



Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

C **Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,

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

Eucharistic Prayer

☞ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

☞ **We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.**

☞ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☞ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

☞ Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

☞ **We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine.**

☞ May we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

☞ **To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☑ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

Amen.

Invitation to Communion

☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

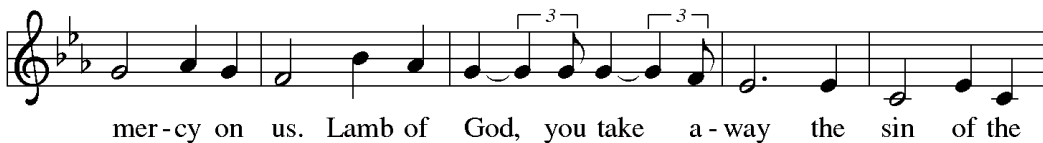
✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

Lamb of God





Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464 (red book)

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453

Here is Bread

ELW 483

Stand

Prayer after Communion

A O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.

G **Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

G **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 51 Weekly Giving: \$ Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, elbow macaroni and saltine crackers.

Year End Contribution Statements for 2016 are in mailboxes.

Mitten/Glove/Sock Tree - the Outreach Committee is again gathering donations of hats, mittens/gloves, and socks for area school children. The need for hats is less than the need for mittens/gloves and socks. A donation tree has been set-up in the gathering area. We plan to distribute the items collected to area schools the second week of January.

Parish Administrator Victoria will be on vacation **January 5 – 14**. If anyone would like to help man the phone during her absence, a couple of hours every morning, please contact Pastor Paul.

Community Outreach meetings have been changed to the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, **January 9th** at 5:00 pm.

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Small Group Ministries Committee is meeting on **Monday, January 9** at 6:30 pm. This will be our first meeting as a committee to organize and plan. We will be meeting in the new classroom, just past the mailboxes in the South hallway.

February GraceGram article deadline is **January 17th**. This allows adequate time to review, edit, prepare, copy and distribute prior to the beginning of February.

Community Outreach has planned a Lenten devotional written by members of Grace. If you would like to participate, check the display in the Gathering Area for details. Dates and texts are listed which you can choose and directions for the devotional are also posted. Pastor Mike Kemper is the editor.

Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:45am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Steve Kaiser	Vickey Argo
Lector	Jack Vos	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Melissa Patton	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Gabe Barnaart
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Mark Anton, Gwen Hansen
	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Sandy Mosteller, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Steve/Peg Kaiser	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church
		Tom, Hope, Emma Peck
Chancel Team	Cindy Beckwith	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 15, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Clyde N Watson
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke, Dave Neeb
	Mark Anton, Kay Marsh	Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Wincik
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church
		Eve Wright, Shayna Gibbons
Chancel Team	Cindy Beckwith	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, January 8

Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am

Adult Forum 9:30 am

Children's Church 10:45 am

Noisy Offering

Monday, January 9

MS/HS youth group 6:00-7:30 pm

Community Outreach 5:00 pm

Adult Forum 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 10

Small Group Ministries 6:30 pm

Brothers of Grace 7:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday, January 11

Prayer Group 6:00 pm