

Grace Lutheran Church

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What an Epiphany!

In today's gospel we hear John the Baptist announce, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). The next day, John the Baptist says it again, this time in front of Andrew and another who will follow Jesus (John 1:36). John the Baptist reveals Jesus as the Lamb of God just as Jesus begins his public ministry. What an epiphany! At this point, even those who have an inkling Jesus is the Messiah do not imagine him as a suffering servant-Savior.

With the benefit of knowing the whole gospel story, we realize the fullness of John the Baptist's insight. We know, and our communion liturgy helps us remember, Jesus is "the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 101).

Jesus, born in a cave and laid in a manger, is Emmanuel, God-with-us, not God-far-away. Jesus, who dies on a cross and rises again, is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Even today, with the benefit of centuries of reflection, it is difficult to imagine an all-powerful God loving the world enough to enter it as a suffering servant-Savior.

So often we get it wrong. We vie for power, we expect reward and recognition for faithfulness, we turn away the stranger, we arrogantly assume our ways are God's ways. And often, Spirit-led and by God's good grace, we get it right. Our words and actions point to Jesus, the Lamb of God. Following Jesus, we find ourselves called and empowered to risk discipleship, sacrifice for the good of another, and give generously. We are blessed to be better than our natures, humbly willing to serve, welcome, comfort, and console. Others recognize we are Christians by our love.

What an epiphany!

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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.

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

January 15, 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

Gather Us In

ELW 532 (red 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

☞ Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever.

☛ **Through your grace may we worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant Israel speaks for herself and acknowledges herself as God's secret weapon. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel itself. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

☞ A reading from **Isaiah:**

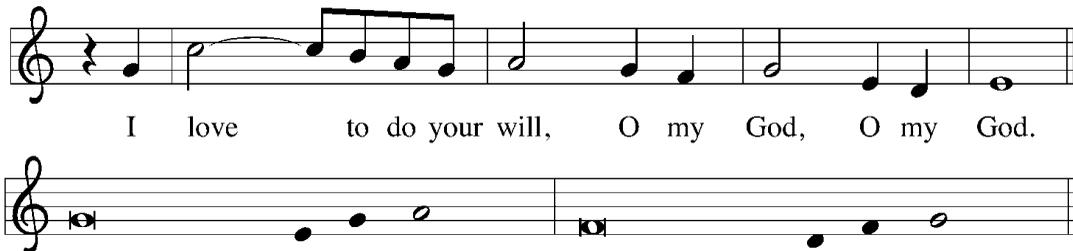
¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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

Psalm 40:1-11



- ¹I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.
- ²**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**
- ³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.
- ⁴**Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!**
They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies. ☒
- ⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be
com- | pared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count.
- ⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;**
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required. ☒
- ⁷And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:
- ⁸**I love to do your will, | O my God;**
your law is | deep within me.’ ”
- ⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.
- ¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness
and | your deliverance;**
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.
- ¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe. ☒

Second Reading

Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A A reading from **Corinthians:**

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

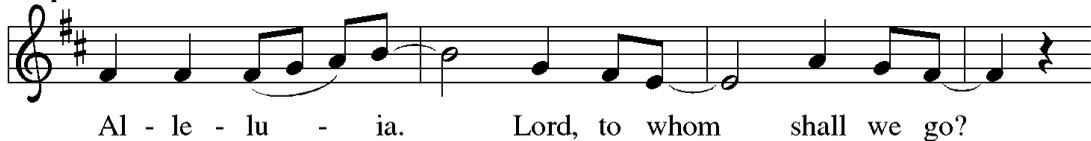
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L God, we thank you for your Word,

C the story of your grace.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the

one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

Arise, Your Light Has Come

ELW 314 (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.

☐ Gather us in, gracious God. Bring together Methodist and Pentecostal, Baptist and Roman Catholic, Lutheran and AME-Zion. Form us in worship into your united people. Send us out as one in you, proclaiming your glory and serving all. 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.**

☐ Fed with bread and wine, Christ’s body and blood, make us eager to care for your good creation. Send us to pick up litter from highways and lakeshores and protect animal habitats. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your mercy is great.**

☐ We pray for all the nations of the world. Help us to reach out to the places where the scandal of hunger resides. 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.**

A Quell the anxieties of all who wait for test results. Bring hope to all whose life is a struggle and filled with despair. Send us to care for those who suffer. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Rick Palmer, Victoria Steadman, John Burdick, Sharon Duits, Danny Gillons, Oliver Cheeseman.*

G **Your mercy is great.**

A Open us to see how our congregation abounds with every spiritual gift. Send us out to share our abundant gifts and proclaim your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

G **Your mercy is great.**

A 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,

G **hear our prayer.**

A We thank you for the faithfulness of your prophets. Strengthen our faith in you. Send us out to proclaim and live your justice boldly. Hear us, O God.

G **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.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **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

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, our selves, 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.

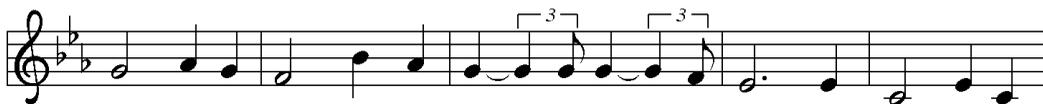
✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Sit

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Eat This Bread

ELW 472 (red book)

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480

Stand

Prayer after Communion

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

- 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.
- 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

On Our Way Rejoicing

ELW 537

Dismissal

- Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
- Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 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.

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

January 29th is Family Promise of Barry County Sunday. At both services, Stephen Larghi, Director and developer of this inter-faith ministry, will visit us to inform us of the nature of this mission in our county. We will also have a special offering this Sunday to help support this ministry. The Community Outreach Committee has agreed to begin supporting Family Promise of Barry County through offerings and volunteers.

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	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	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, January 22, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Barry Wood	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Mark Anton	Mark Anton
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Sandy Mosteller
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Gavin Patton	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Dan/Melissa, Gavin, Grayson Patton	Gary/Lisa Golnek Mark Anton, Joe Longcor
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	<i>Volunteers</i>
Children's Church	Volunteers	Children's Church Kristi Winick, Traci Wales
Chancel Team	Cindy Beckwith	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, January 15	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am
Monday, January 16	Adult Forum 6:00 pm
Tuesday, January 17	Council 6:00-8:30 pm
Wednesday, January 18	Prayer Group 6:00 pm