

Grace Lutheran Church

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Lights Up on Jesus

When there is a lot happening on stage, theater directors help the audience pay attention to what is important. They might position the supporting characters so they face or point to the star of the scene. Stage lighting also directs attention. Sometimes this is as dramatic as following an actor with a spotlight. Sometimes it is subtle. Stage lights are turned up where the audience should focus and dimmed elsewhere.

“Let your light shine before others,” Jesus says (Matt. 5:16). Those who have read ahead in Matthew might wonder how “Let your light shine” fits with Jesus’ direction to secretly donate (Matt. 6:4), pray (v. 6), and fast (v. 18), so as not to draw attention to yourself.

The rest of Matthew 5:16 provides the explanation. We are to let our light shine “so that [others] may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Who is our light? Jesus. Why do we let our light shine? To help others see and experience God’s saving love. How does the light of Jesus shine in our lives? Through actions that consistently and authentically show our love of God and neighbor.

The baptism liturgy concludes with a welcome. The newly baptized might be presented with a candle lighted from the paschal candle representing the light of Christ. A member of the congregation can then say, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 231).

Baptism powers the light of Jesus in us. This light grows as we live into the baptismal covenant: to live and worship in Christian community; to witness to the good news of Christ through word, deed, and service; and to strive for justice and peace in the world.

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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.

6th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 12, 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

What is This Place

ELW 524 (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

☞ Let us pray . . . O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you.

☞ **Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving and holding fast to the Lord. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

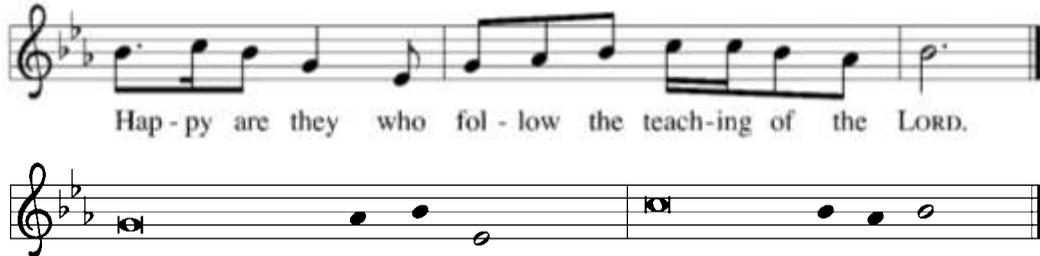
☞ A reading from **Deuteronomy:**

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length

of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

Psalm 119:1-8



- ¹Happy are they whose | way is blameless,
who follow the teaching | of the LORD!
- ²**Happy are they who observe | your decrees**
and seek you with | all their hearts,
- ³who never do | any wrong,
but always walk | in your ways.
- ⁴**You laid down | your commandments,**
that we should | fully keep them. ☐
- ⁵Oh, that my ways were made | so direct
that I might | keep your statutes!
- ⁶**Then I should not be | put to shame,**
when I regard all | your commandments.
- ⁷I will thank you with | a true heart,
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.
- ⁸**I will | keep your statutes;**
do not utter- | ly forsake me. ☐

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

☐ A reading from **1 Corinthians:**

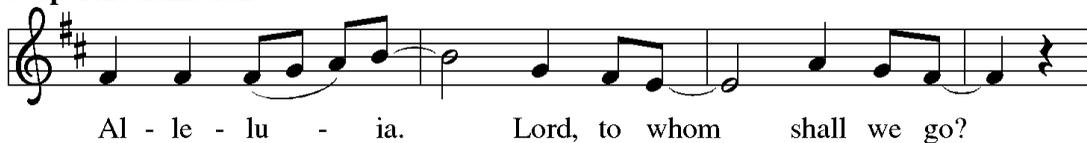
¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.

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

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:21-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

- ☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for

your whole body to go into hell.

³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Message/Children’s Church

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

In All Our Grief

WOV 739 (blue 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.

☐ Holy Lord, you alone are God. Remove jealousy and quarreling between Christian denominations. Hold us in the unity of our baptism as we work together to serve you. 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, Zion Lutheran Church in Comstock, Free Methodist Church in Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ You called into being the first fruits of the earth. Guide gardeners and farmers who till the soil and tend the fields. Bless their work and in due season bring forth the bounty of the land. Lord, in your mercy,

☑ **hear our prayer.**

☐ Merciful Lord, your love knows no bounds. Break down barriers caused by nationalism. Challenge our stereotypes. Give us courage to engage in difficult conversations with those whose experiences are different from our own. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Kayla Pohl, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten.* Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Ⓐ Pour out your Holy Spirit on all who struggle. Ease the pain of families affected by divorce. Grant life-giving work to all who seek employment. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Abigail Kopf, the Ricker brothers, and Kaylee.* Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Ⓐ You know every hair on our heads. Yet we do not even know each of our neighbors. Equip our outreach ministry and this assembly to get to know the people in our community. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Ⓐ 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.

Ⓐ Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Ⓐ Eternal Lord, you are the God of our ancestors in faith. You are our God. Keep us faithful until we join all the saints at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Ⓟ 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.

☞ Amen.

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

Ⓟ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ 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, 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.

☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

☐ 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.

I Come With Joy

ELW 482 (red book)

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

God, When Human Bonds are Broken

ELW 603

Stand

Prayer after Communion

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

C 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.

Congregational Announcements

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.

C 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

Drawn to the Light

ELW 593 (red book)

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 99

Weekly Giving: \$4098.00

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.

Offering Envelope box #45 has been misplaced. Please take a moment to check your offering envelope number this next week as it may have been picked up by accident. If you find box #45, please drop it off in the office.

Red Cross First Aid & CPR training on Feb 24 & 25. See the foyer board for specifics and to sign up. Contact Kim Domke, 269-908-0024, with questions.

Building Renovation – Phase II – begins February 18th. If you are available to help in any capacity, please contact Doug Neeb, 269-685-7831. There are jobs for all capabilities. *We would also like to have several volunteers who are willing to prepare and bring in lunch for the work crew.*

Vacation Bible Experience - It is never too early to begin making plans for VBE... Our first organizational meeting will be Sunday, February 19, after late service and is open to all interested persons. We are looking for a new Coordinator this year. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this ministry opportunity. Grace has LOTS of folks willing to help and support the coordinator so no fears that you will be left alone. If this is your calling, please contact Jana Bishop at 269-838-3348 or mark.jana.bishop@gmail.com.

Youth Committee - We are looking for people interested in serving on the Youth Committee. The Committee is tasked with overseeing youth and family ministry activities at Grace. Being a member of this committee is not a commitment to lead a youth group, teach Sunday school, head up events such as VBE or the Christmas Program but rather a commitment to participate in committee meetings, brainstorm on how we can provide ministry to the youth of Grace and those beyond our doors and to pray for those who are “boots on the ground” doing the work of ministry. If God is calling you to be a part of this committee please contact Jana Bishop by February 15th at 269-838-3348 or mark.jana.bishop@gmail.com

Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:00am</u>
Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Chris Bush	Joyce Daugherty
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grayson Patton	Hope Peck
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Ingrid Morgan, Kristi Winick
Children's Church	n/a	Eve Wright, Shayna Gibbons
Chancel Team	Chris Bush, Lisa Golnek	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, February 19, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Steve Kaiser	Traci Wales
Cantor	Jack Vos	Kate Watson
Lector	Carol Vos	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Katie Pohl	Clyde N Watson
Usher	Randy/Brenda Teegardin	Ed Domke, Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Doug/Diane Neeb
Children's Church	n/a	Kim, Matt, Jeanette Markwart
Chancel Team	Chris Bush, Lisa Golnek	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, February 12	Worship at 8:00 & 10:45 am Adult Forum 9:30 am Children's Church 10:45 am Noisy Offering
Monday, February 13	Community Outreach 5:00 pm
Tuesday, February 14	Women of Faith 6:30 pm Brothers of Grace 7:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday, February 15	Prayer Group 6:00 pm
Thursday, February 16	Clapper Kids bell choir 3:45-5:00 pm Grace Notes adult bell choir 5:45-7:00 pm
Friday, February 17	GraceGram article deadline
Saturday, February 18	Phase II Renovation Project Workday Demolition and Construction 9:00 am-2:00 pm