

# Grace Lutheran Church

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January 16, 2022

# Baptism of our Lord

January 16, 2022

**The season of Epiphany** has begun 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. Today's color is white reminding us of God's cleansing power for each and every one of us.

## Welcome/Announcements

*Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.*

## Gathering Music

*Arise in body or spirit.*

### Greeting

**P** The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**A** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.

**C** **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**

**A** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world...."

**C** **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

## Gathering Song

*Baptized and Set Free*

ELW 453

## Prayer of the Day

**A** Let us pray..... Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son.

**C** **Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

📖 A reading from **Isaiah**.

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*The psalm is spoken. The leader will read the light text. The assembly will read the bold.*

## **Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The 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!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

📖 A reading from **Acts**.

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

*Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.*

**Gospel Acclamation Spoken**

**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

☐ The Holy Gospel, according to **Luke**.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Time

## Message

*Silence for reflection*

**Song of Day**

*Borning Cry*

**ELW 732**

**10:45 only** See Baptismal Celebration Insert

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Radiant God**. The assembly responds in prayer. **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence*

- Ⓐ By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. We thank you for our church leaders especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Grace Lutheran Church, Lansing, First Congregational, Lake Odessa, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. Be with those who serve in the military, especially *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas) and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion, or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. Send healing and relief to all who are sick, especially *Doris Allarding, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, Ron Bush, Donna Buehl, Cherie Clements, Ann Cusack, The family of Mary Dawson, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, The family of Ilene Hilson, Mike Hoppe, Bill Melcher, The family of Karlton Neil, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Sharon Varkula, Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Eve Wright, Lynnze*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism, especially Aynslee Mina-Grace Kuhlman. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking.

*(You may share your prayers at this time)  
Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- Ⓐ You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. Radiant God,
- ☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**
- Ⓐ Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
- ☒ **Amen.**

*Arise in body or spirit. The pastor and the assembly greet each other giving a sign of Christ's peace.*

### **Sharing the Peace**

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**  
*(We share the peace of the newborn Lord with one another.)*

*After a sign of Christ's peace is given the prayer is prayed, as the assembly continues to stand.*

### **Offering Prayer**

- Ⓐ Let us pray....Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
- ☒ **As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



## Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☛ **And also with you.**

☞ Lift up your hearts.

☛ **We lift them to the Lord.**

☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

☞ 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.

☛ **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

☞ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray how Jesus first taught:

☛ **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

☞ Holy food for Holy people.

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

## We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ

*Please be seated. You are invited to come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At this time, we only offer the pouring chalice and prefilled grape juice cups. There is a gluten-free option for the bread. Please let the pastor know.*

*Please remain seated.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

- A** Let us pray . . . Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
- G** **Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **Mission Minutes**

*After the Mission Minutes are shared, we arise in body or spirit, as the pastor shares the blessing.*

### **Blessing**

- P** Live your lives in the Light of Christ, sharing God's rich love and grace. The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- G** **Amen.**

**Sending Song**

*Soon and Very Soon*

**ELW 439**

### **Dismissal**

- A** Go in peace. Be light for the world.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

### **Forever and Ever**

Many of us were baptized as infants, so our only “memories” of that day consist of photos and stories told to us by those who love us. Some of us have come from other traditions and were old enough when baptized that we can remember the event ourselves. And still others came to baptism as adults, making the decision to embrace the Christian faith after learning a bit about it.

Regardless of when we were baptized, we are to live each day in the joy and gratitude of the newly baptized. Martin Luther urges us to live into the promise of baptism in ordinary, mundane acts: “When you wash your face, remember your baptism.” We are encouraged to “walk wet,” to not let our Christian identity become something we take for granted.

In baptism we are claimed, forever promised inclusion and welcome. Never again must we feel lonely, isolated, or left out; God has called us each by name and claimed us as God’s own (Isaiah 43:1). To emphasize the eternal strength of this claim, God makes the same claim for God’s own Son: “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22).

*You are mine forever, and I am proud of you*—what more do we need to hear? Luther’s advice is timelessly good: each morning, when we remember what it means to be baptized, we face the day knowing that we are loved and wanted.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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**Today we celebrate the baptism of Aynslee Kuhlman.** Aynslee is the daughter of Angela Kuhlman, and granddaughter of Paul and Mary Kuhlman. Aynslee’s sponsors are Amy Wagner, Christy Woods, and Kim Kooy.

**Let your light so shine before others.** Beginning today, we begin receiving your votive candle holders to be lit during the season after Epiphany. Our first week to light them will be next week.

Grace is once again looking for a **Parish Administrator**. Vicki MacKeller resigned to take care of her Aunt Joy, who has stage 4 cancer. Please keep Joy and her family in prayer.

“New office hours” are Monday – Thursday 10 am through 1 p.m.

**Adult Forum** continues to gather in the Gathering Area and will continue its study on the book of **Genesis** at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

## Stewardship Information

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Attendance: 46            | Views: 108                |
| Weekly Giving: \$8,320.00 | Budget Amount: \$4,163.28 |
| Grace Projects \$3,650.00 | Bell Choir \$300.00       |

**Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what Aynslee Mina-Grace Kuhlman finds today through the gift of baptism, a loving Jesus who welcomes all. No matter your background or faith tradition, you will find that Grace Lutheran Church is a place that is full of love, care, and support. We are pleased that you are here among us to worship the God of new life.**

**Mask wearing.** The Worship Committee is asking you to wear your mask during singing. You are welcome to wear your mask at all times if it makes you more comfortable. *Thank you for your flexibility, as we keep needing to adjust to the virus changing.*

**Grace invites those who are considering joining the church to contact Pastor Ken.** After hearing from a couple people, we will be having a new member class during the Adult Forum Class time in the near future. Even if you are a member of Grace, please consider coming to these classes.

**CPR, AED, and First Aid certification classes offered here at GLC** the weekend of January 28-30. Sunday is a FREE mini AED awareness class from 12:15- 1:30. See bulletin board for more details or talk with instructor Kim Domke.

**The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 26<sup>th</sup>.** Please sign up by Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you are able to come out and enjoy this winter season with friends who are just getting to know each other.

**Want some soup on a cold winter's day?** The Community Outreach Committee is having a soup fundraiser for Family Promise on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Look for more details to come.



**The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis.** Three youth and two adults are signed up. Other youth are welcome to join but will need to pay an additional \$100.00 fee at this point.

### 8:00 am

**Assisting Minister – Mark Anton**

**Lector – Dave Neeb**

**Cantor – Ken Scheck**

**Musician – Chris Bush**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

### 10:45 am

**Assisting Minister – Paul Kuhlman**

**Lector – Gwen Hansen**

**Cantor – Ken Scheck**

**Musician – Jeanette Markwart**

**Pastor – Ken Scheck**

**Fellowship – Freedlund Family**