

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 23, 2022

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 23, 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 tests explore the mission of the church in the world.

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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray..... Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people.

C **Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

📖 A reading from **Nehemiah**.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

📖 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 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

📖 A reading from **First Corinthians**.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

📖 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. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, and to proclaim release to the captives. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Jesu, Jesu. Fill Us with Your Love

ELW 708

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

- Ⓐ You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. Empower 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.**

- Ⓐ All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. Radiant God,

☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. 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.**

- Ⓐ Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression 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.**

- Ⓐ Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries here at Grace Lutheran Church especially our outreach, youth, and congregational care ministries. Help us to take courageous steps in sharing life-changing love. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us.

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

- Ⓐ In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn *especially the families of Mary Dawson, Ilene Hilson and Karlton Neil*. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. Radiant God,
- ☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**
- Ⓟ Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through 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 coming of Jesus, who moved 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

- Ⓐ 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.
- ☒ **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

- Ⓟ 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.
- ☒ **Amen.**

Sending Song

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

Dismissal

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

A New Kind of Justice

All sorts of social cues tell us that “justice” requires vengeance, punishment, pain for pain, or even death, in the case of violent crime. This is what we call “retributive justice.” In our reading today Jesus claims fulfillment of God’s promise as proclaimed by Isaiah; Jesus has come “to bring good news to the poor” and “to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free” (Luke 4:18). This is not a kind of justice that promises peace at the expense of others. Rather, the justice to which Jesus alludes is restorative.

Our culture encourages a retributive mindset. We want offenders to suffer, thinking that it will deter them and others from such actions. It seldom does. The thinking is that retributive violence is required in response to wrongdoing. But this dynamic only reinforces the spiral of violence. Restorative justice, in contrast, is the turning around offered by Jesus when he states that Isaiah’s prophecy has been fulfilled.

Restorative justice is the foundation of salvation. By his coming into the world, Jesus brings with him the salvation that will proclaim liberty to all of us who are captive to something, whether we deserve that liberty in the eyes of society or not. Restorative justice reminds us that love is not about deserving, and that God’s will for you and for me is to be so filled with God’s grace that we are once again made complete, made whole, and restored. Jesus is sending a signal that his coming into the world is an invitation to look at everything we think we know from a different perspective. Everything that Jesus says has been fulfilled is something that restores righteousness to the universe and heals and builds relationship.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Let your light so shine before others. Beginning today, we light tea lights in votive candle holders that friends of the congregation have brought to share. You are invited to bring your own style to help us see the diversity of the body of Christ we have among us.

Grace is seeking a Parish Administrator. Seeking an individual who enjoys working with the public, comfortable using technology, a team player, maintains confidentiality of member giving records, prepares and proof-reads reports, and publications as directed and prepare copies for distribution and coordinates facility use and calendar. If you are looking for part time employment, please contact Grace Lutheran Church at parishadmin@grace-hasting.org or call 269-945-9414.

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: 66 Views: 130
Weekly Giving: \$5,756.50 Budget Amount: \$4,163.28

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find that Jesus frees us by fulfilling God's promises of releasing the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and letting the oppressed go free. We hope you find 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 26th. Please sign up by Sunday, February 20th. 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 27th. 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. The ELCA is prayerfully considering postponing this event again.

8:00 am
Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am
Assisting Minister – Vickey Argo
Lector – Sandy Mosteller
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Paul Kuhlman