

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 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

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray..... Almighty and ever-living God,

C **increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah**.

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy.’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

📖 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 71:1-6

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

**⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

**⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

📖 A reading from **First Corinthians**.

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

📖 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. You shall go to all to whom I send you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW 715

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.

A 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

A Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. Empower our church leaders especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Redeemer and St. Stephen Lutheran Churches, Lansing, First Presbyterian and First United Methodist, Hastings, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. Radiant God,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. 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,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

A Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or brokenhearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit especially *Doris Allerding, 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, Greg Franks, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, The family of Ilene Hilson, Mike Hoppe, Mindi Longcor, 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,

C **Let your light shine upon us.**

Ⓐ Your grace falls upon young and old alike. Bless the gifts of children here at Grace Lutheran Church and in the communities in which we live. Give us humble hearts to follow their leadership. Inspire us with laughter, insight, and curiosity children bring among us.

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

Ⓐ We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face especially Mary Dawson, Ilene Hilson and Karlton Neil. Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in the arms of your never-ending love. 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

God, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

Dismissal

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

Hometown Surprise

In today's gospel, Jesus has returned to his hometown, a community eager to welcome him back into their midst. Perhaps they assumed Jesus would meet their familiar welcome with special favor. But instead, Jesus shakes things up by pointing to God's presence in the lives of outsiders. This is not exactly the message the hometown folks were expecting to hear!

Jesus recalls the widow at Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian, two outsiders in whom God chose to demonstrate divine healing power. This text is an invitation for people in every time and place to consider how whenever we think we have God figured out, God instead shows up in the lives of those we least expect. Every time we place God at the center of our own world, God's Spirit nudges us to expand our horizons to notice the Holy at work in other communities too.

In homeless shelters and prisons, in immigration detention centers and tense board rooms, in ritzy hotels and dingy bars, in hospital rooms and messy kitchens—in every ordinary, imperfect, and painful place, God is here bringing about new life and freedom. In traditions we don't understand, in cultures unfamiliar to us, in people we would rather write off as “other,” God dwells, creating and loving and restoring.

Even within our own churches, God defies any logic about what is holy and what is not. God shows up in the ordinary objects of bread and wine and water, in the bodies of flawed and fragile people gathered for worship, in the sticky hands and juice-stained mouths of children waving their Sunday school crafts. In these imperfect and beautiful things Jesus declares the presence of the kingdom of God.

May our hearts be open to notice Christ in the places we least expect him to be.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Let your light so shine before others. As you can tell, we have begun lighting 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.

Mask wearing. The Worship Committee is asking you to wear your mask during singing. You are welcome to wear your mask at all times.

Worship Committee meets next Sunday after the 10:45 am worship service.

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.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 32 Views: 128
Weekly Giving: \$5,756.50 Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Grace Project: \$810.00

Welcome to worship today! We hope you find what we have found - 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.

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!

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 us, and the additional \$100.00 fee is being covered by a family in the church. So if you are in 8th grade or high school, you can still join us for no extra fee. The ELCA is prayerfully considering postponing this event again.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Kim Domke
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Jeanette Markwart