

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 13, 2022

The season of Epiphany has begun and marks the revelation of 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.

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

Gather Us In

ELW 532

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray..... Living God, in Christ you make all things new.
- C** **Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

📖 A reading from **Jeremiah**.

⁵Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

📖 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 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither.

Everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

📖 A reading from **First Corinthians**.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

📖 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. Rejoice, and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

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

🙏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

▣ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

Prayers of Intercession

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **Radiant God.** The assembly responds in prayer.
Let you 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

- Ⓐ Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. Empower our church leaders to speak this truth especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Emanuel Lutheran Church, Ludington, Freeport United Brethren, Freeport, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken.*
Radiant God,

☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. Radiant God,

☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. 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.**

- Ⓐ Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution especially *Doris Allerdig, Amber Andrews, Vickey Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, The family of Kathleen Boyle, Ron Bush, Cherie Clements, Ann Cusack, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Mike Fruth, Greg Franks, Michael Gibbons, Lorie Gladyness, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Hannah Gutenmorgen, Larry Hansen, Mike Hoppe, The family of Tom Knoche, Mindi Longcor, Bill Melcher, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Jane Secor, Mike Shoemaker, George Ulrich Jr., Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Eve Wright, Lynnze.* Radiant God,

☒ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships.

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

- Ⓐ Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you. 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

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

Dismissal

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

Shoulder to Shoulder

While Matthew recalls Jesus' teachings commonly called "the Beatitudes" as shared from a mountaintop, Luke situates today's similar gospel lesson on a level plain. The plains are a place of great exposure—in the sense not only of how far one can see toward the horizon, but also of the harsh exposure to the elements without trees or hills to block the wind or shield one from the sun. On the plain, it can feel like everything has been laid bare; nothing can remain hidden for long. And true to the setting, much is exposed in this story. The rich and the poor, the joyful and the suffering, the hungry and the full are placed side by side. There is no hiding the inequality and injustice of the world.

Jesus' stark words reach across the page and the years to call us, the church, to examine our hearts, our relationships, and even our society. A level plain invites us to look our neighbors in the eyes, to hear their stories, to see their humanity. It forces us out of our bubbles, our social media echo chambers, and our circles of people who look like us and see the world in the same ways we do. A level plain flattens our hierarchies and forces many of us to face our privilege and our complacency in the systems of injustice that pervade our world.

But the good news is that this level plain is also a place of transformation and healing. It is where we come to meet Jesus, shoulder to shoulder with people we might least expect or with those we would be least likely to choose. It is where Jesus' gaze meets us, inviting us to participate in God's new creation unfolding among us. And this new creation takes seriously the cries of the poor and the oppressed until inequalities have been erased, God's mercy and justice reign, and all gather together as equals at God's banquet table.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Want some soup on a cold winter's day? The Community Outreach Committee is having a soup fundraiser for Family Promise on February 27th. We are having soup, crackers, bread, fruit, desserts, and beverages. The suggested donation is \$8 for eating in. You are also invited to sign up for takeout soup at \$5.00 for each 16 oz. container of CREAMY POTATO (no meat) or CHICKEN VEGETABLE. Pick up between NOON and 1PM. The takeout is being prepared for the Hastings High School Culinary Arts students. **Deadline to sign up is a week from today.**

Grace is pleased to announce Brenda Hess as our new Parish Administrator. Please welcome Brenda. Hours are Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Let your light so shine before others. Thank you for bringing in your votive candle holders. If you have not brought your holder, you are still able bring it.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 47	Views: 86
Weekly Giving: \$3,470.00	Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Grace Project: \$100.00	CPR: \$75.00
Helping Hands: \$200.00	Miscellaneous: \$500.00

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 our great TEACHER and HEALER.

Social Activities Committee is organizing Wednesday Night Dinners to be served from 6-6:40 before the 7pm Lenten services. If you are willing to make a pot of soup or casserole or another fun dinner, please sign up on the bulletin board. Contact Kim Domke 296-908-0024 if you have questions.

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!

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

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.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 26th. Please sign up by next 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.



The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering has been cancelled. The *Youth and Family Committee* is seeking to do something with the youth this summer.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Kate Watson
Lector – Sandy Mosteller
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Watson Family