

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 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

There is a Balm in Gilead

ELW 614

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray..... O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope.

C **Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

📖 A reading from **Genesis**.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

📖 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 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

**²For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

**⁴Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

**⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**⁸Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

**¹⁰In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

**³⁹But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

📖 A reading from **First Corinthians**.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

📖 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. Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

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

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of Day

Softly and Tenderly

ELW 608

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 teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. Empower our church leaders to speak this truth especially, *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Victory Trinity Lutheran Church, Ludington, Freeport United Methodist, Freeport, Minister of Music Cindy, and Pastor Ken*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. 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.**

- Ⓐ Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled especially *Doris Allerdig, Amber Andrews, Vicky Argo, Gerrie & Veronica Baarson, The family of Kathleen Boyle, Sandy and Wally Burzynski, 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, Mindi Longcor, Bill Melcher, Gloria & Ron O'Beirne, Darlene Olson, Jane Secor, George Ulrich Jr., Cheri Wilke, Deborah Wilke, Eve Wright, Lynnze*. Radiant God,

☑ **Let your light shine upon us.**

- Ⓐ You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving.

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

- Ⓐ We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. 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

We Are Called

ELW 720

Dismissal

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

Cocreators in Christ's Reign

Jesus' words in today's gospel reading are challenging. But more than a list of dos and don'ts, today's text is an invitation to enter a countercultural way of living: a lifestyle that meets antagonism with mercy, scarcity with generosity, and selfishness with abundant love. It is not a call to passivity or silence, to complicity in injustice, or to acceptance of the way things are in order to avoid conflict. Instead, it is a call to let God's merciful justice and compassionate grace define our stories, our relationships, and our very existence so that we might be agents of change. It is a call to experience the freedom that only Christ can give. It is a call to join God as cocreators of a new kingdom where Christ's reign turns what we think we know on its head.

We practice this countercultural lifestyle every time we gather for worship as we remember who we are and whose we are as God's beloved children, and as we confess the ways we have not lived up to this identity. We are shaped by God's words of justice, mercy, and grace, and we enter into a story that extends far beyond ourselves. We name the hurting places in our world, places of hatred and abuse and scarcity, and pray that God's Spirit will transform them into wellsprings of new life. We share the peace of Christ with one another, refusing to let the forces of hatred and division have the last word. We practice generosity. We gather at God's abundant table to partake in bread and wine that unite us with Christ and with all who share this meal around the world. Finally, we are sent forth with God's blessing to be agents of love and mercy, to show with our lives the transforming power of God.

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 by the Hastings High School Culinary Arts students. **Deadline to sign up is 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. After next Sunday's worship, you can take it home.

Please sign up for the NEWSIES musical by March 6th. Details and additional information can be found on the board in the Gathering Area.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 27
Weekly Giving: \$4,358.94
Grace Projects: \$580.00

Views: 90
Budget Amount: \$4,163.28
Youth Gathering: \$441.81

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.

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. Following State of Michigan guidance, there is no requirement for mask wearing, but you are welcome to continue to wear a face mask at this time.

New member classes will begin March 6th at 9:30 am. This class will replace the Adult Forum during Lent. Come and learn about the Lutheran Church for the first time or refresh your knowledge of what our church believes.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 26th. Please sign up by the end of 10:45 service today. 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 an outing with the youth this summer.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Mark Anton
Lector – Gwen Hansen
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck
Fellowship – Freedlunds