

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 15, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Arise in body or spirit.

Opening Sentences

- ☐ The light of God given, experienced and shared be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**
- ☐ The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
☑ **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- ☐ Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.
☑ **We have seen Christ's light, the light from God is Jesus.**
- ☐ Jesus said, "I am the light of the world...."
☑ **Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."**

Gathering Hymn

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Stanzas 1,2,3,6

ELW 308

Greeting

- ☐ The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
☑ **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- ☐ Let us pray, Holy God, our strength and our redeemer.
☑ **By your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

📖 A reading from **Isaiah:**

¹Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."

⁵And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-11



Refrain



I love to do your will, O my God, O my God.

¹I waited patiently up- | on the LORD,
who stooped to me and | heard my cry.

**²The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the | miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my | footing sure.**

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise | to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust | in the LORD.

**⁴Happy are they who trust | in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who | follow lies. ☩**

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,
none can be com- | pared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than | I can count.

**⁶Sacrifice and offering you do | not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have | not required. ☩**

⁷And so I said, “Here I | am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

**⁸I love to do your will, | O my God;
your law is | deep within me.’”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the | great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O | LORD, you know.

**¹⁰I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and | your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the | great assembly.**

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas- | sion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually | keep me safe. ☩

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

📖 A reading from **1 Corinthians**:

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Arise in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

ELW Page 188



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

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

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered.

Message

Silence for reflection. After reflection,

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

Lamb of God

ELW 336

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Prayers

A Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companions Christ Lutheran Church, Wyoming; Thornapple Valley Church, Middleville; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Radiant God,

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

A The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world's waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways (*especially*) and in responding to devastating floods. Radiant God,

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

A In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Be with those who safeguard the world, including *Parker Stancil (Freedlund), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkula), Julia Ehredt (Schreiner, Halstead), and Seth Domke (Domke).* Radiant God,

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

A You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need especially *Frances Ann, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, John Charles, Cherie Clements, Victor Crowder, Bob & Bonnie Ehredt, Greg Franks, Bill Frutiger, Mike Gibbons, Amanda Haddix (pregnancy), Larry Hansen, Henry Heil, David Hills, Mike Kemper, Norma Ludlow, Alexis Markwart, Mattea Markwart, Kinsley McManaway, Terri Neeb, Ken Plourde, Annette Poholski, Randy Post, Roy Richards, Cynthia Rudesill (pregnancy), Al Throop, Lindsay Varkula (pregnancy), Maryellen Wammock, and Erika Wood.* Radiant God,

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

A You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Radiant God,

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

- A** God of mercy, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Radiant God,

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

- P** We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

- C** **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

Offertory

Come to the Table

ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

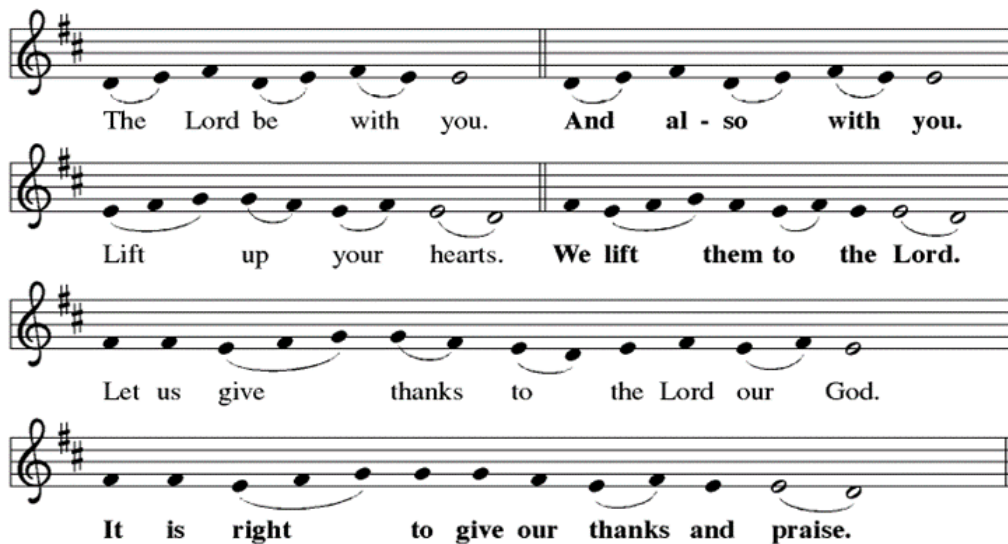
Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.
- Ⓒ **You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

Sharing the Peace of God

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

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.

- Ⓐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Table Prayer

- ☐ Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
- ☑ **Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.**
- ☐ Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
- ☑ **We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- ☐ Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. Let your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
- ☑ **Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.**
- ☐ All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☑ **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

- ☐ We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

- ✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *pouring chalice*. Take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Assisting Minister. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.
- ✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.
- ✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.
- ✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.
- ✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the Pastor.

Communion

*Now Behold the Lamb
He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

ELW 341

ELW 737

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food.
- ☒ **You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day — that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever. Amen.**

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit.

Blessing

- Ⓐ The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- ☒ **Amen**

Sending Song

Arise, Your Light Has Come

ELW 314

Dismissal

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

Postlude

8:00 am

Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Dave Neeb
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II

10:45 am

Assisting Minister – Paul Kuhlman
Lector – Linda Melcher
Cantor – Ken Scheck II
Musician – Mary Kuhlman
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Freedlund Family

See for Yourself

Sometimes you just have to experience something for yourself in order to understand its true impact. It's just not the same to listen to someone else describe the rich flavors of an extravagant meal or list reasons a choral piece was so moving to its listeners. Few words are adequate to describe a magnificent sunset. A sticky summer's day, the bitter chill of winter, the palpable excitement that builds inside a sports stadium—sometimes you just have to be there to really understand what it's like.

Perhaps to some extent this is true of our faith too. "Come and see," Jesus tells two of John's disciples (John 1:39). Come and see for yourself where Jesus resides. Take a risk. Jump in. These words echo across time and space, offering us an invitation as well.

Every week we are invited to come and see where God dwells. Not only that, but we are invited to taste, to hear, to touch. We are invited to feast on the bread of communion, to hear ancient words of promise, to splash in the waters of baptism. We are invited to raise our hands, hearts, and voices in praise. Perhaps we are invited to bear witness to the power of digital community that unites us across time and space. We are invited to follow Christ's call into worship with our bodies as well as our souls. We are invited to let ourselves be surprised by whom and what we encounter. Finally, we are invited to listen for Christ's voice as we leave the worship space and search out God's presence in the world.

Where is God inviting you to come and see? Where might Christ already be dwelling among you?

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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Stewardship Information

Attendance: 64	Views: 356
Weekly Giving: \$4,410.00	Budget Amount: \$4,301.04
Noisy Offering for Barry County Cares: \$133.12	
Helping Hands: \$540.00	
Nursery Fund: \$200.00	
Renew Campaign: Surplus \$2,277.00	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Needed: \$15,865.65	
<i>Lifting Up</i> Campaign Received: <u>-\$ 50.00</u>	
TOTAL Outstanding:	\$15,815.65

Our first phase of the ***Lifting Up*** campaign of raising \$25,000.00 will center on replenishing borrowed funds from the shortfall of our budget, as we keep in mind planning for the replacement of the HVAC that services the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in joining the Congregation Council in implementing ***Lifting Up***.

Mission Endowment Fund: As you may be aware, Grace Lutheran Church has a Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) and a MEF Committee. The purpose of the MEF is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of our church. The Committee is tasked with discerning where to distribute up to 90% of the earnings of the MEF. Your suggestions are welcomed for directing where these funds may be best used. Please place your suggestion along with your name in Tim Schoessel's mailbox and it will be reviewed by the MEF Committee when it meets. You may wonder how does the MEF grow. One way the MEF grows is that 10% of the annual earnings are reinvested and become part of the principal. The other way the MEF grows is through receiving bequests, trusts and gifts of cash or assets designated to it. If you have not done so already, please consider when preparing your will or estate plan to give to the MEF.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. Please pray that the youth that are part of Grace and our larger community, might consider going to this fantastic experience. The speakers, worship, fellowship, and service opportunities express the Christian body at its' best.

2022 Giving Statements will be included in your copy of the February GraceGram. For the month of February, everyone will receive a hard copy of the GraceGram, even if you signed up for it to be delivered via email. If you have any questions about your giving statement for 2022, please contact Brenda. Thank you.

Celebrate Recovery Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that gives people the resources and relationships to help find a new way of living. This ministry is for anyone struggling with past or current hurts, habits, or hang-ups, whether they are affecting their own life, or the lives of those around them. Grace is excited to host a Celebrate Recovery group every Friday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. But before this group can start their important work, they need volunteers.

Celebrate Recovery needs 24 volunteers for one hour per month.

- Door Greeter who also helps people get to where they need to be
- Someone to run sound and computer program
- Set up literature table for participants and hand out pamphlets
- Help set up and take down the dining area including coffee service and clean up

Eventually Celebrate Recovery will need childcare volunteers too.

Anyone with a 12-Step background may help lead any part of the group.

If you are interested in knowing more, or are able to help by volunteering, please contact the Celebrate ministry leaders to leave a message at 269.391.3080, or you can join them any Friday night at 6:00 p.m. Training will be given by the Celebrate Recovery ministry for those who are interested. You can also visit the website at www.celebraterrecovery.com.

Grace Lutheran Church looks forward in helping Celebrate Recovery ministry get off the ground and looks forward to having them reach out and help those in need from our community.

Look for notices on the following news outlets

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER
Closing will be published by the following media outlets:

Television
WOOD TV 8
WVMT TV 3
WXSP TV
WOTV 4

NEWSCHANNEL 3
WVMT.COM

WBCK 95.3
NEW TALK

Radio
WBCH 100.1 FM
WBCK 95.3 FM
MIX 104.9 FM

the WXSP TV

abc wotv 4

wood 8
abc TV

WBCH 100.1 FM
World's Best Country Music!

<https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranhastings>

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 also get a peek at God's GRACE for ALL people.

Adult Forum studies the Psalms in the Gathering Area today at 9:30 am. Hope to see you there!

The nursery is available during the 10:45 worship service. Aurora Collins is the Nursery Attendant. She would love to have some little ones visit her. Please spread the word that Grace provides childcare during this worship service.

Join us for our Community Potluck on January 29th after the 10:45 worship service. We encourage you to bring Soups, Stews, Homemade Bread, and dessert. Signup sheet is in the Gathering Area.

Devotionals from the Community Outreach Committee **are available in the Gathering Area.**

SAVE THE DATE Saturday, February 25th the Social Activities Committee will host "Pizza and Game Night". Signup and more details to follow in February.

The youth are going tubing at Cannonsburg Ski on February 25th. 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 always welcoming and friendly.