

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
January 7, 2024

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

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. Today's color is white reminding us of God's cleansing power for each and every one of us.

<i>Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.</i>
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Gathering Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Arise in body or spirit.

Gathering Song

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

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."**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, and wind sweeping over the waters.

C **Amen.**



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Prayer of the Day

- Ⓐ Let us pray, Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.
- ☩ **Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

First Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

- 📖 A reading from **Genesis:**

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

- 📖 The Word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 29



Refrain



¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

📖 A reading from **Acts**:

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Come and See

ACS 976

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

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

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

☞ 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

Arise in body or in spirit to sing the hymn.

Song of the Day

You may sit or kneel for prayer.

Arise, Your Light Has Come

ELW 314

Prayers

*We pray the prayer response after each petition. You will hear, **We lift our hearts to you.** The assembly prays, **Reveal your love, O Lord.***

▲ As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

▲ Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. We lift up *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants Chrisy and David; our synod companion churches Advent Lutheran Church, Lake Ann; Middleville United Methodist Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

▲ Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

▲ Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love, 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).* We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

▲ Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially, *Pastor Michael Anton, Veronica Baarson, Bob Bolton, Diana Brown, Chris Bush, Cherie Clements, Pat DePew, Lisa Golnek, Lorraine Handsbarger, Andy Lamb, Bill Miller and family, Martha Misak, Virginia Moomey, James Neiderheiser, Lisa Nurenberg, Corrina Palmer, Shirley Peterson, Annette Poholski, Jennifer Rohr, Mindy Shepler and family, Mike Shoemaker, Jeanette Ulrich, Al Throop, and Brenda Watson.* We lift our hearts to you.

☐ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

- Ⓐ Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. We lift our hearts to you.

☛ **Reveal your love, O Lord.**

- Ⓟ Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

☛ **Amen.**

Arise in body or spirit.

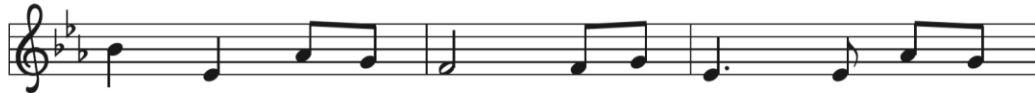
Offertory Song

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



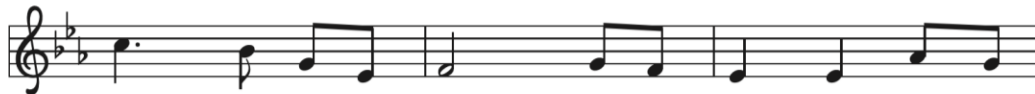
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.
Ⓑ In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

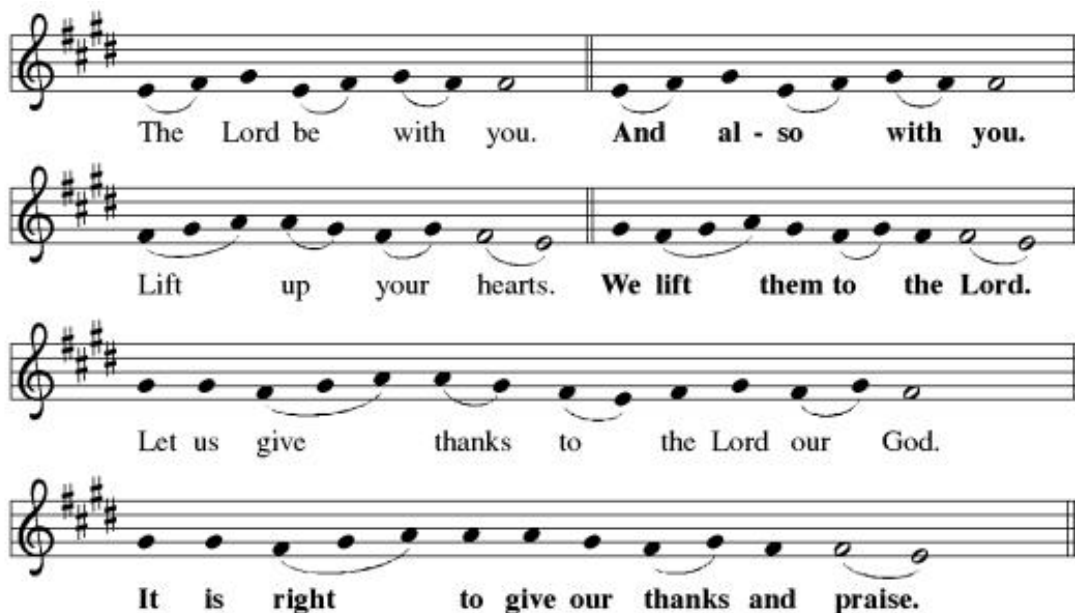
Sharing the Peace of God

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

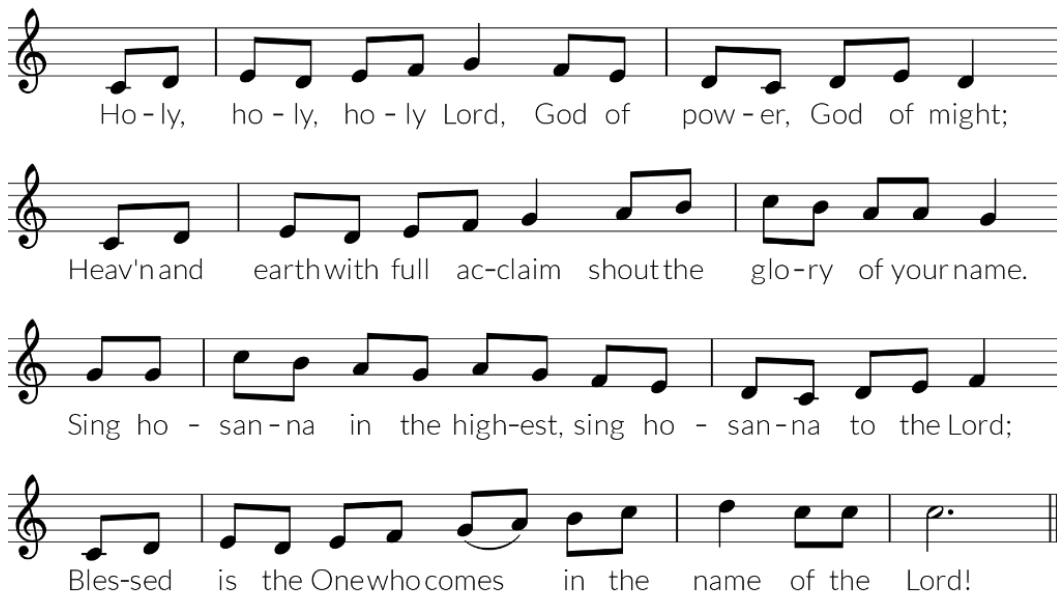
☑ **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Great Thanksgiving



☐ 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 - er, God of might;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord;
 Bles-sed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Table Prayer

- ☞ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
- ☞ **From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.**
- ☞ 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. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await Christ's coming again in righteousness and peace.
- ☞ **Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share.**
- ☞ We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame. We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit.
- ☞ **Be for us our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- ☐ Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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

- ☐ At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit. *Lamb of God* ELW page 154

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Songs

This Little Light of Mine
Wade in the Water

ELW 677
ELW 459

Prayer after Communion

- Ⓐ Giver of every gift,
☩ Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body . Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

Mission Minutes

Arise in body or spirit

Blessing

- ☩ God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you ☩ bless you and remain with you always.
☩ Amen.

Sending Song

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

Sending

- Ⓐ Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
☩ Thanks be to God.

Postlude

8:00 am

**Assisting Minister – Randy Teegardin
Lector – Mark Anton
Cantor – Cindy Olson
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II**

10:45 am

**Assisting Minister – Traci Wales
Lector – Jamie Heise
Cantor – Vickey Argo
Musician – Cindy Olson
Pastor – Ken Scheck II
Fellowship – Diane Neeb**

A Life-Changing New Chapter

Jesus does not *become* the Son of God at the moment of his baptism. Indeed, his relationship to God the Father is eternal—from forever in the past, through the incarnation, and forever into the future. But Jesus' baptism is a watershed moment (pardon the pun) representing the beginning of his public ministry and revelation as both fully human and fully divine.

At the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is an unknown person from Nazareth, a remote town about which scripture says little (but for Nathanael's insinuation of its bad reputation at John 1:46). Jesus would have seemed much like the other people who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. Yet this is the Son of God who has chosen to join all the people on this earth, to live like we live, to experience what we experience. So Jesus gathers with the multitude that comes for this ritual of a new beginning with and through God. And a new life does open in front of Jesus. The unexpected suddenly erupts for this ordinary-seeming man: in this human among humans a new chapter is initiated in God's story for the world—a new chapter that will come to involve a new kind of baptism.

This new baptism forms the church—both initially and yet today. No longer the temporary washing in water that John performed, Christian baptism is a definitive act of God, through water and the Holy Spirit, in which we are “marked with the cross of Christ forever” (*ELW*, p. 231) and raised to “newness of life” (Romans 6:4). As we follow Mark and the other evangelists' accounts of Jesus' ministry, even to death and beyond, we will learn what it means to be marked with Christ's cross. But foundational to this—and the gift that makes it possible for us—is that the Creator's words to Jesus resonate in our own baptism: “You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased.” It's a life-changing new chapter for us too.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Brothers of Grace will be meeting at **6:00 p.m.** on Thursday, January 11th. There was an error with the time on the GraceGram calendar.

Women of Faith meet Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome.

Adult Forum resumes today and we are continuing our study of Galatians.

Please Pray for the Community Ministry of Diversity The *Roundtable Companions for Racial Equity* are a local group of people dedicated to promoting diversity and inclusion in our community. Their fundamental belief is Every individual, regardless of their background, deserves to be valued, respected and included. In the month of February, they are hosting a series of events at the Hastings Library called *Lift Every Voice*. These events will offer education and dialogue focused on diversity issues and will involve panel discussions, film, music and art. Please see the January GraceGram for additional information.

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 ONE who reveals God's presence in our lives. It is by God's grace that we are made a child of God, who is blessed by God's rich grace, mercy, and peace.

Please use this QR
Code to access
online giving.

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 45

Views: 438

Weekly Giving: \$6,240.00

Budget Amount: \$4,366.17



Grace Projects As you know, we have fully funded a new HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall. The Congregation Council has voted to have a fundraiser to replenish the funds we raised. Much like the roof deductible, we are seeking to make sure we have funds for any future property needs. The cost of the HVAC was \$25,252. We appreciate any contributions toward this future need of caring for our building.

Noisy Offering will be taken next week. Noisy offerings support Barry County Cares.

The Congregational Care Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Giving Tree. The Giving Tree in the Gathering Area is up. This year we will be gathering items of donation to the **Alpha Women's Center** and **Family Promise of Barry County**. Please do not wrap donations so the organizations can easily identify each donation. **Donations can be received through TODAY.**

Giving Numbers Just a reminder that some people will be keeping their current numbers, but many will get new numbers for 2024 so it will be helpful to write your name on the outside of your envelope during the month of JANUARY in case there are changes we need to make. Thank you.

Book Study entitled Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. The next study session is **January 28th at 9:30.**

The nursery is available weekly 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.

Hand2Hand Program provides food over the weekend to students at Hastings schools. We are collecting donations of Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Milk, pudding cups, Slim Jims, granola bars, individual size instant oatmeal, ramen noodles, and ready-to-eat mac and cheese. The list of additional items needed for January and deadline will be available next week.

Blood Drive Grace is having a blood drive on Thursday, January 25.