



Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 4, 2024

HOLY COMMUNION
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Four)
Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of the Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card.

We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available.

Please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are the parts you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so as you are able.

As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.



Gathering

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the holy Spirit, ✝ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.

Amen.



We Come to You for Healing, Lord

1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in

bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our

Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824
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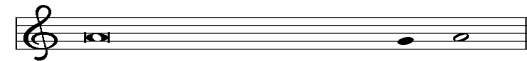
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

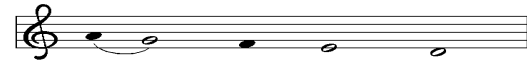
And also with you.

Kyrie

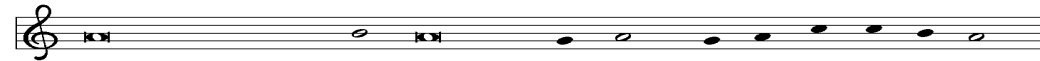
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



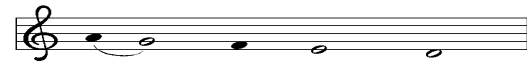
Lord, have mer - cy.



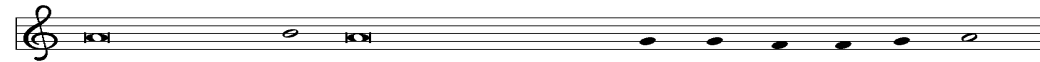
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



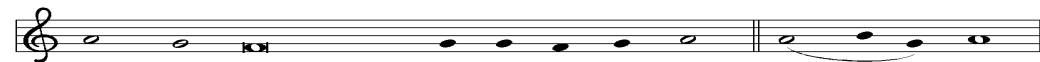
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

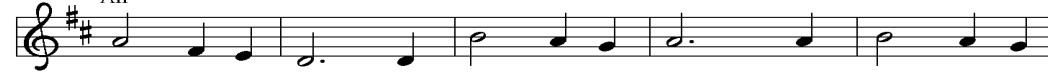
Canticle of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

A reading from Isaiah:

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Continued

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

We read responsively.

¹Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
²**The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
³He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
⁴**He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**
⁵Great is our LORD, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
⁶**The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**
⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.
⁸**He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.**
⁹He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.
¹⁰**His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;**
¹¹but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the LORD!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

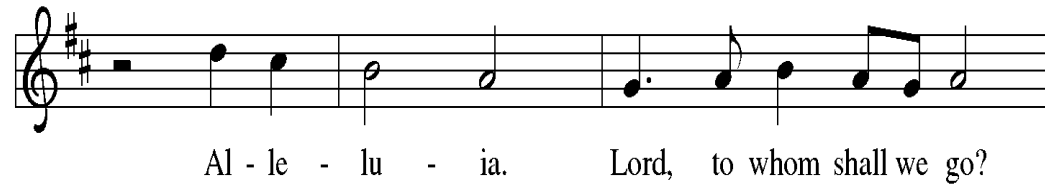
¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to St. Mark:



Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

Children's Worship

Pastor Van Stee

Sermon

Pastor Van Stee

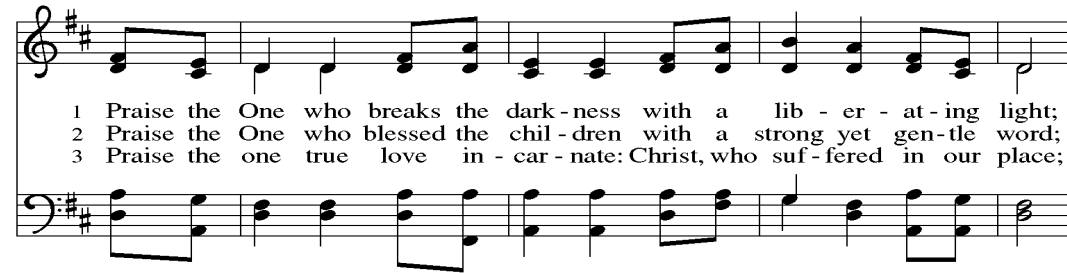
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The congregation stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

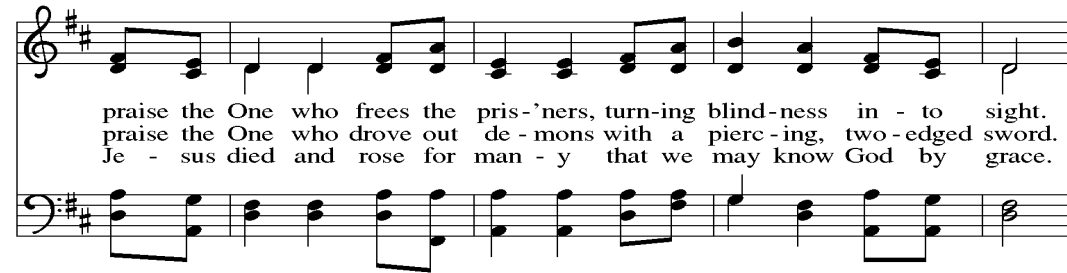
Hymn of the Day: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

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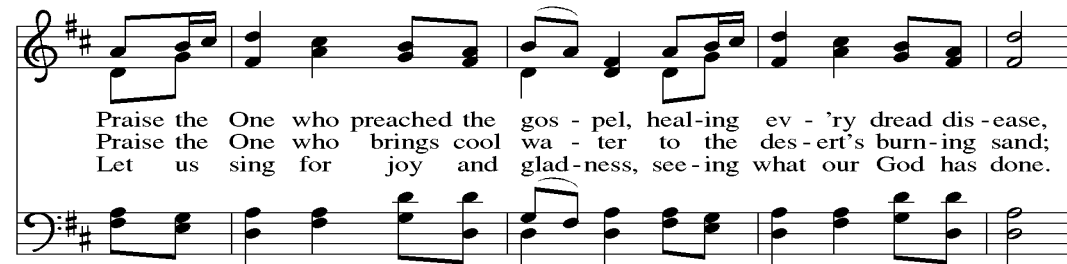
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



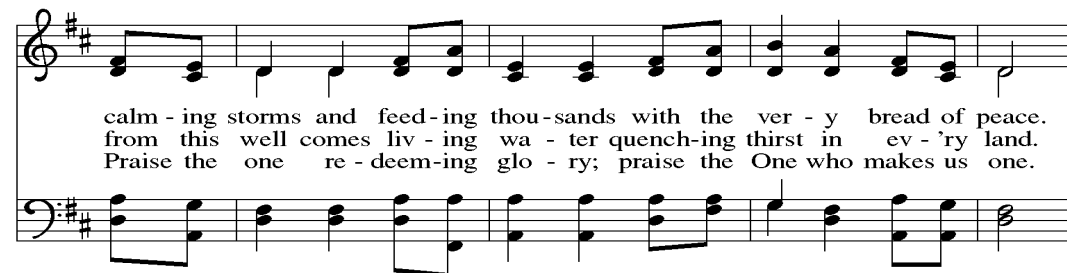
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la R` oho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,
akapanda mbinguni, ankaa kwa
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na
uzima wa milele. Amina.**

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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.

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offertory

The congregation stands.

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

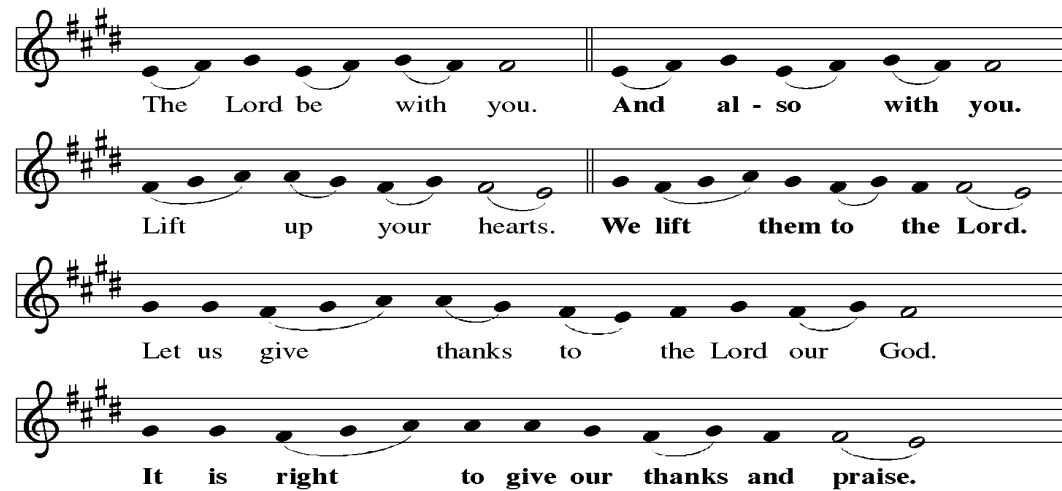
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Offering Prayer

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.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

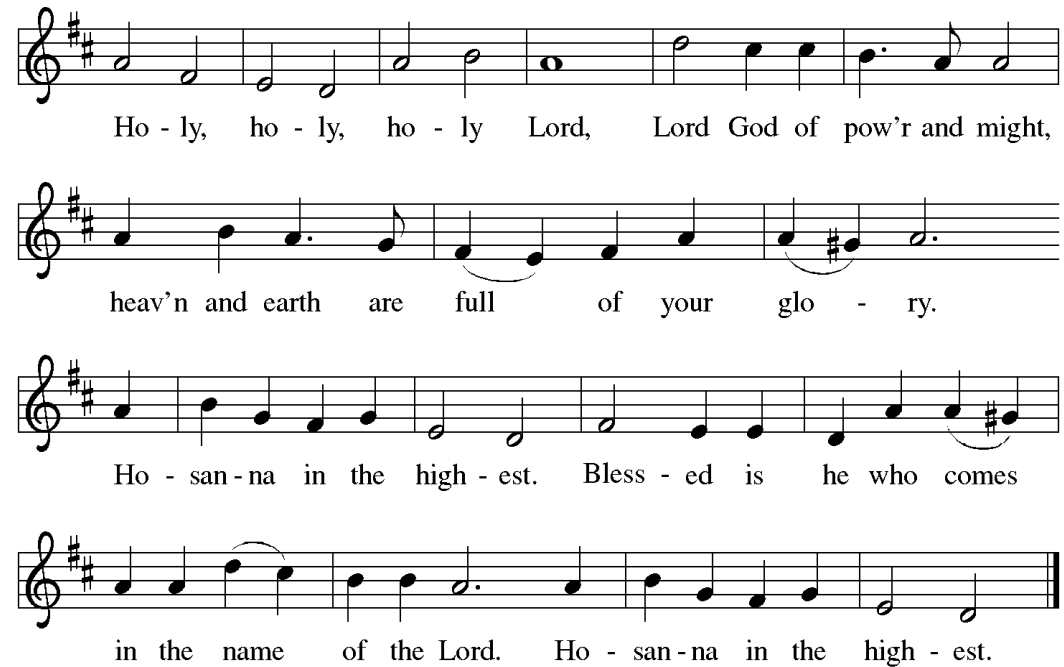
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
in great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

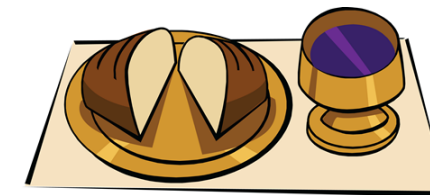
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 death, resurrection and ascension,
we wait his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

Amen.



**Come to the
Table**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

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

The congregation may be seated.

Baba Yetu

**Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako
litukuzwe;
ufalme wako ufike,
utakalo lifanyike
duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.**



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.

The Holy Communion

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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.

Sending

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent.

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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: *“Oh, Worship the King”*

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Oh, Worship the King

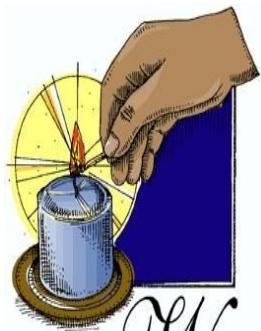
1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727



Worship Assistants

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

- Altar Flowers:* *Open*
- Altar Guild:* *Jim & Gloria Nelson*
- Assisting Minister:* *Tripp Franklin*
- Communion Assistants:* *Carolyn Hite*
Karen Walck
- Council Person of the Week:* *Jean Morgan*
- Offering Stewards:* *Pat Brady*
Robin Crowder
- Ushers:* *Fred Biggers*
David Proctor



Altar Flowers

Chancel flowers are given this morning to the glory of God



TRANSFIGURATION

Next Sunday's schedule and Lessons

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Service of Holy Communion
and via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching

- 2 Kings 2:1-12*
- Psalm 50:1-6*
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6*
- Mark 9:2-9*



Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks**, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office,

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

Caroline Biggers

Gloria Nelson

Pete Warren

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

Claire Biggers, Daughter of Fred and Caroline Biggers
Rick Van Norton, Friend of Pat Giesen
Phoenix Oberg, Friend of Sarah Kite
Carrie Peters, Niece of Schwiesows
Trina Shipley, Friend of Donna Gum
Tiffany Tate, Friend of Pat Giesen
Hellen Vindas and Family, CICRIN
Children and Staff at CICRIN

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Emily Almarode
Chuck Goodrich
Phyllis Kite
Sharon Vorel

Genevieve Arneson
Kathy Johnson
Glenn Myers

Marge Cloutier
Sandy Johnson
Tom and Carol Varner

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Sherry Aldinger, Friend of Tami Radecke
Jack and Nancy Crenshaw, Friends of Betty Karol Wilson
Nina Crow, Mother of Cathy Crowder
Natalie Dodge, Friend of the Almarodes and Amy Warren
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Joe Keese, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Mary Etta Randolph, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Laura Siwik, Niece of Linda Meyer

Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks*)

Family of Emma Lou Artz, Relative of Gloria Nelson
Family of Katie Caraher, Friend of Amy Warren
Family of Cinzia Occhioni, Niece of Linda Meyer
Family of Liz Shumate, Wife of Pastor Joe Shumate

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Bekky Jones (2/4)
Irma Graf (2/10)

Kenneth Weller (2/6)
Chukizo Denis (2/11)

Prayers for the World

As Followers of Christ, we begin early this year to pray for our Nation in what has already shown itself to be a difficult Presidential campaign, and that God would guide US, as faithful people, not in our fears, but by our faith in the One who creates, the One who has saved us for life that really is life, and the One who guides each of us daily *in this United States of America.*

We bring before God areas of war and tension—The Red Sea and shipping lanes attacked by Houthi Rebels; border clashes in Pakistan vs. Iran; Chinese tensions with Taiwan; Ukraine/Russia's continuing war; Israeli war in Gaza and Middle East tensions.

Families of US military killed in the Middle East, and for all serving in harm's way.

The Church

For the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod, ELCA (of which Grace is a part).

For our downtown neighbors at St. John Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Main Street United Methodist and The Prayer Room, as well as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

For our friends at Bethlehem Lutheran, Waynesboro, and Christ Lutheran, Staunton as they prepare to seek a pastor to serve in our community.

For our sisters and brothers in Christ At Christ Tabernacle Church of Christ, Shiloh Baptist, Union Baptist, St. James Baptist, Oak Grove Baptist and beyond in this Black History Month.

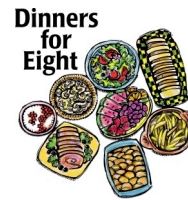


Words You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! Those words are **COVID, flu, RSV and Winter Viruses.**

- If you have any symptoms, or have tested positive, please stay at home. YouTube worship services are available Live every Sunday for those who are sick.
- If you have COVID, flu, fever or aches, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days or until symptoms end - until you return to worship.



Thanks to Pastor Karen Van Stee: Pastor Karen preaches and presides today as Pastor Paul and Jill return from a family visit to SC. Pastor Van Stee is also serving as Vice-Pastor for Bethlehem Lutheran Church as they begin their process of seeking a new call for a pastor following Pr. Karen Taylor's retirement.



Dinners for Eight

Dinners of Eight – 2024 - Members and friends of Grace are invited to join in the next round of Dinners of Eight – a monthly time of informal fellowship and getting to know each other better as a family of faith. Thirty-two members participated in the autumn gatherings. If you'd like to be part of the winter-spring gatherings, or for more information, contact the coordinator Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.



Come learn about our Church

First Sunday Fellowships! These are wonderful opportunities for fellowship as well as a time to get a great "snapshot" of the ministries of Grace! **We need your ministry to sign up** to provide light refreshments, as well as make a brief presentation of your ministry. However familiar you think Grace is with what your ministry does, it's always important to share our ministries at Grace! See the **sign-up sheet** in the narthex and sign-up today!



All God's Children

No One Less Than

All God's Children meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Grace conference room.

- Starting February 12th, we begin discussion of *A Fever in the Heartland – The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan. The next book is a historical thriller by a Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Ku Klux Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them. The book is compelling, powerful, and profoundly resonant today. Join us!



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers—The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday meals! **St. James** is offering a Noon Pancake meal on the day before Ash Wednesday, February 13th, while **Bethlehem** offers its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Both receive donations for their ministries. "Fat" or Shrove Tuesday was a day designed to clear out the cupboards of rich, fatty foods to prepare for the disciplines of Lent. Enjoy these events to do the same!



Burning Palms in Preparation for Ash Wednesday - Our ashes are made from the Palms of the previous Palm Sunday. If you have saved your palms, bring them on Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th, to be burned for our February 14th Ash Wednesday observance.



Bulletins

Our Bulletin and Worship - Beginning next Sunday, in order to be more economical and best use our resources, we will ask worshipers to use the pew hymnals to sing hymns. This will save costs in printing and paper and use the hymnals we have invested in. (Hymns from newer resources will continue to be printed.) *We will also print announcements in the bulletin no longer than three weeks in an effort to keep announcement pages fresh and concise.*



The Grace All God's Children and the Grace/Christ Tabernacle Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice groups will provide lunches for guests at the Expo Center WARM Shelter Tuesday, February 6th through Monday, February 12th. We will be packing up to 70 daily lunches at the Christ Tabernacle kitchen on Monday, February 5th, Wednesday, February 7th, and Saturday, February 10th. You are welcome to participate in the packing. Donations to help defray the cost of the lunch are also greatly appreciated. Make checks payable to Grace with the "WARM Lunch Program" in the memo. Contact Rick Bump, Donna Yobs or Nancy Schwiesow for further information or to volunteer.



Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch - In keeping with the pre-COVID practice of enjoying a lunch fellowship in conjunction with the Annual Congregational meeting, we will be having a modified potluck lunch **after worship on February 25**. There will be main dishes of soups/stews/chilis, along with salads, bread, and desserts. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church or call the church office by February 18. Come for the Annual Meeting and stay for lunch fellowship on the 25th. Questions, contact Linda Meyer (540-256-2277) or Karen Walck (765-480-9920).



Tutoring Needs—We are working with Westminster Presbyterian to offer tutoring of the children of Jules Madawa and Masoka Mmeswa once a week on Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. There are four (4) lively children in school right now – and the baby, Happy, also likes to join in the activities. If you have an interest in participating in the tutoring every week or just a time or two a month, please contact Linda Meyer (540-256-2277).



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made **thirty-nine deliveries** thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-three to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,125 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.

February 4-11, 2024

Day of Week	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	02/04	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Karen Van Stee, Presiding and Preaching Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	
		11:15 a.m.	
Monday	02/05	7:00 p.m.	Virginia Synod Midwinter Power in the Spirit
Tuesday	02/06	9:30 a.m.	Virginia Synod Midwinter Power in the Spirit Quilting
Wednesday	02/07	10:00 a.m.	Virginia Synod Midwinter Power in the Spirit Prayer Group (Chapel) Yoga (Seminar Room) Choir Practice
		6:00 p.m.	
		7:00 p.m.	
Thursday	02/08	8:30 a.m.	Grace Walkers Bible Study (Conference Room) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study (Conference Room)
		11:00 a.m.	
		12:30 p.m.	
		5:30 p.m.	
7:00 p.m.			
Saturday	02/10	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	02/11	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Transfiguration of Our Lord Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching First Sunday Fellowship Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	
		11:15 a.m.	

Monday

Genesis 25:19-34
 Hebrews 13:1-16
 John 7:37-52
 Morning Psalm 57, Evening 85

**Thursday**

Genesis 27:30-45
 Romans 12:9-21
 John 8:21-32
 Morning Psalm 143, Evening 81

Tuesday

Genesis 26:1-6, 12-33
 Hebrews 13:17-25
 John 7:53—8:11
 Morning Psalm 54, Evening 28

Friday

Genesis 27:46—38:4, 10-22
 Romans 13:1-14
 John 8:33-47
 Morning Psalm 88, Evening 6

Wednesday

Genesis 27:1-29
 Romans 12:1-8
 John 8:12-20
 Morning Psalm 65, Evening 125

Saturday

Genesis 29:1-20
 Romans 14:1-23
 John 8:47-59
 Morning Psalm 122, Evening 100

**Grace Church Council 2023-24**

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)
Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985), Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176),
Jerry Kite (540-910-3372), Linda Meyer (540-256-2277),
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422), Susan Myers (434-760-1660),
Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772), Karen Walck (765-480-9920),
Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)
Cabell Caister, Youth Member
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

STAFF

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor, Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music, Email: mickhdking@aol.com
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary, Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

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