

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor
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Sunday, January 23rd, 2022
Third Sunday in Epiphany



Introduction to the day

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

PRELUDE

(please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates us,
redeems us,
and calls us by name.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.
We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.
We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.
We have failed to show hospitality
to those you called us to welcome.
Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.
For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.
Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news:
In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.
Live as freed and forgiven children of God.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to
Sing (ELW 886)*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Carl G Glaser 1784-1829: arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.
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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 148)



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated)

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

[When the seventh month came—the people of Israel being settled in their towns—] ¹all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³Ezra read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So the Levites read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then Ezra said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom

nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19 (please read responsively)

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker’s handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

³Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their
message to the ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and
runs about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the
simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light |
to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous |
altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much
fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one’s | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let
them not get dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great

offense.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one part but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the parts of the body, each one of them, just as God chose. ¹⁹If all were a single part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable parts are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable parts do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the parts may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one part suffers, all suffer together with it; if one part is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually parts of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of

²⁰And Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ..

(the assembly is seated)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Surely God Is My Salvation (ACS 926)***
(at the end of the bulletin)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

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 (ELW p. 153)

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

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness

and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing,

his dying and rising,

and his promise to come again,

we await that day when all the universe

will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,

that, refreshed with this heavenly food,

we may be light for the world,

revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

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 Come to God's table.
There is a place for you and enough for all.

(The assembly is seated.)

COMMUNION *(Everyone is welcome to come to the communion table. You may kneel or stand at the communion rail. If you have not received instruction in the Sacraments, come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like to receive grape juice instead of wine, put one finger up when the worship assistant comes to you. If you would like to receive communion where you are seated in the pews, please tell the usher and at the close of communion you will be served.)*

COMMUNION SONG



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

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)

Text: Rusty Edwards, b 1995 Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of sacred Music part 111 1813

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Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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(please stand as you are able.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,
✝ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)*

TEXT: WILLIAM WHITLA, B,1934 MUSIC: GUSTAV HOLST,1874-1934

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DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world.
Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

The ANNUAL meeting for Grace will be held on January 23rd at 11:00am

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect new council members, approve the council- recommended 2022 FY budget, and approve the contract to replace the church roof.

Coming Sunday, February 6th, Josh Frey, the Fort Wayne Coordinator for Safe Families for Children, a national organization working to empower churches to serve the most vulnerable in the communities. While looking for ways to expand their movement beyond Fort

Wayne, they thought that Grace Lutheran might be a good fit. Safe Families works with families in crisis by providing volunteer host homes. Meanwhile, they work with churches, professional staff, and other volunteers to provide the support parents need to make it through the crisis.

Fundraiser to support the preschool: shop with Scrip through the Raise right App or through the website **shopwithscrip.com**

*buy gift cards for places you already shop at with reloadable gift cards, e-cards, or physical gift cards. There is no extra charge to you.

*Example: if you shop at Walmart for groceries, you can purchase a gift card for \$100.00. you can purchase a physical gift card that will be sent straight to your house, or you can choose a reloadable card that will be put right on your app. You are already spending that money at the grocery store, so why not buy a gift card before you go to the store, to help the preschool?

ORGANIZATION NAME : Grace Lutheran Church Preschool

Enrollment code: AL22LAE586216

Surely God Is My Salvation



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,
 2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter
 3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is
 from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to
 make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
 God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.
 God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Sing ho-san - na!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody

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