

# Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church



To glorify God, to grow in faith,  
to give in service, together in Christ



Jan. 29, 2023  
Fourth Sunday after  
Epiphany  
8:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor  
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music  
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator  
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

Please note that our Annual Meeting will be held  
**today, January 29** immediately following the 10:30 service.  
All active (voting) members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness.

**Prelude: Jesu, Joy of our Desiring**

**J.S. Bach**

*Please stand.*

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. At Grace Lutheran Church, we gather:

**C. To glorify God, to grow in faith, to give in service, together in Christ.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen.**

P. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font.*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters, and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C. Amen.**

**Greeting**

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

**Hymn of Praise: Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

ELW 310 (stanza 1)



Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

**Prayer of the Day**

P. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

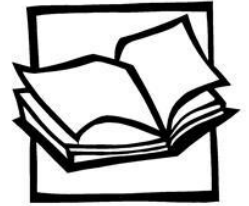
<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?



Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 15



<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear  
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst  
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

Psalm prayer

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us  
who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?  
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of  
God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the  
foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs  
and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to  
Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and  
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is  
wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by  
human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God  
chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the  
world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things  
that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the  
presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us  
wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order  
that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

P. The gospel of our Lord, according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon: The Paradox of True Happiness**

**Pastor Nancy Raabe**

Please stand after the hymn introduction.

## HYMN of the DAY: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.  
4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.

Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;  
Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;  
It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

*Last time to coda* ☩

where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;  
where there is dark - ness, . . . . . on - ly light;  
in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -

and where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.

2

3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so

much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

*D.C. (stanza 4) al coda*

loved as to love with all my soul.

☩ *Coda*

ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

## **Apostles' Creed**

P. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C. 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

To the petition "Merciful God," please respond, "Receive our prayer."



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven.....**

## **GREETING OF THE PEACE**

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**Music at the Offering (Choir at 10:30): Lord, Be Glorified**

**Bob Kilpatrick**



*In my life, Lord, be glorified. In my life, Lord, be glorified today  
In my song, Lord, be glorified. In my song, Lord, be glorified today  
In my home, Lord, be glorified. In my home, Lord, be glorified today  
In your church, Lord, be glorified. In your church, Lord, be glorified today*

*Please stand.*

### Offertory: Let the Vineyards



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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power,

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore,  
through Jesus our Savior, **C. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS: Grateful Grace**

*Please stand.*

## **BLESSING**

P. God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace  
of the Holy Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: To Be Your Presence**

**ELW 546**

## **DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **C. Thanks be to God.**

*The service has ended and you may depart. The candles are extinguished during the postlude.*

**Postlude on ENGELBERG** (Sending hymn)

**Arr. Robert J. Powell**

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**Virtual Organ** The Essen Philharmonic Concert Hall Organ. One of the oldest German Orchestra  
Concert Halls. It was inaugurated on September 24, 2004, a few months after the opening of the  
building. Built by the Swiss organ building company Kuhn, it has 4502 pipes and is similar to the organ in  
Philadelphia's Verizon Hall.

**WORD SEARCH: Hymn Tune Names We Love, Vol. 1 (A-E)**

C Q E I E N G E L B E R G N  
W V G Z W V O R R X I T G A  
J A N X Y L E E B O X A A S  
T E B E Q S Z N N W N C B S  
G D I A D E M A T A W H J U  
N W Q B N H M H S I C E C R  
C X G E O E T S L O D R A A  
Z O B J Z U E J I S E E L N  
L E N O G N R T A I T P V C  
Q P B V U Q N B K N R O A E  
V C B B E A Z M O N O N R X  
S X Z A G R N J A N I I Y M  
Q G R C O N S O L A T I O N  
E D H B R I D E G R O O M E

**ANTIOCH  
ASSURANCE  
AZMON  
BOURBON  
BOZEMAN  
BRIDEGROOM  
BUNESSAN  
CALVARY**

**CHEREPONI  
CONSOLATION  
CONVERSE  
DETROIT  
DIADEMATA  
EBENEZER  
ENGELBERG  
EVENTIDE**

## Serving today – Thank You!

Preacher and presider: Rev. Nancy M. Raabe

Organist: Kevin Freaney

Lector: 8:00am, K. Seiler; 10:30am, J. Shaffer

Ushers: 8:00am, K. & K. Seiler;

10:30am, J. Krout & K. Heacock

Acolyte: 8:00am, Usher; 10:30am, Usher

Coffee Hour: Bruce Schmidt

Council Offering & Lockup: 8:00am, P. Schmidt;

10:30am, J. Krout

Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

## NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]**

*The fast God chooses*

**Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

*God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit*

**Matthew 5:13-20**

*The teaching of Christ: salt and light*



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**Pastoral Care** If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.



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## Grace Lutheran Church

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