



3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

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: Selections from Unity Mass by Norah Duncan

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C. Amen.**

P. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.



Merciful God,

C. you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P. God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **C. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

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.**

GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



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

All



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

P. 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.

C. Amen

WORD

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹ All the people [of Israel] 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. ² Accordingly, 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. ³ He 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. ⁵ And 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. ⁶ Then 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. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And 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. ¹⁰ Then he 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.

C. Thanks be to God.



Psalm 19



- ¹ The 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.**
- ³ Although 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.**
- ⁵ It 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. R**
- ⁷ The 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.**
- ⁹ The 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. R**
- ¹¹ By 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.**

¹³ Above 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.

¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,**

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. R

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For 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. ¹³ For 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.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If 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. ¹⁶ And 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. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The 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.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And 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. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

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.

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

P. The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

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

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

Sermon: Inauguration Day

Pastor Nancy Raabe

HYMN of the DAY: Christ Be Our Light

ELW 715

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

P. Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Mike, Becky and Zac Smith, and Ed Muntz, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation introduces the family:

R. Mike, Becky, Zac and Ed come to our congregation from Hosensack Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zionsville.

Apostles' Creed

P. Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

**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 the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Address and Questions

P. In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

P. Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?

C. We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

R. Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

C. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**



Hymn: As With Gladness, stanzas 4 and 5 only

Stanzas 4 and 5 only



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

PRAYERS

To the petition “God of grace,” please respond, “Hear our prayer.”

GREETING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always. **C. And also with you.**

Please be seated.



OFFERING

The offering is collected at this time by the ushers, who will pass the offering plates. You may also use this QR code to give using your credit card, or text a gift to Grace at 844-613-0815. We rely on your gifts to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Forms for electronic giving are in the narthex or ask us for help.



Music at the Offering: This is Holy Ground

by Sally DeFord
(1959-)

OFFERTORY: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



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.

OFFERING PRAYER

A. Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **C. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

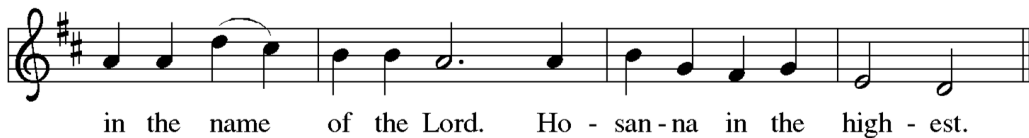
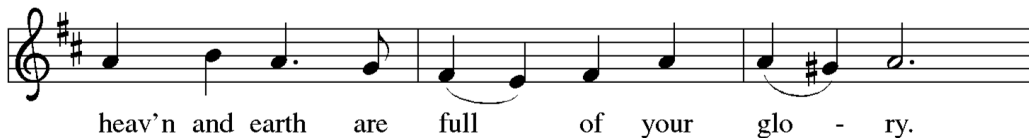
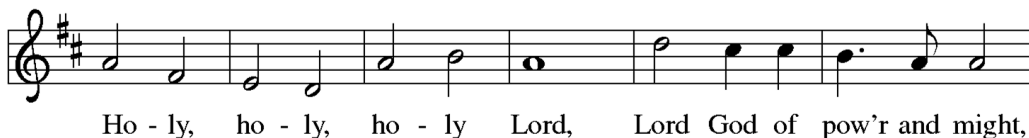
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....and join their unending hymn:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

In the night in which he was betrayed...

P. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C. Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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....

Invitation to Communion

P. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



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 Hymn: One Bread, One Body

ELW 496

Please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of love and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, **C. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.

BENEDICTION

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve as Christ. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Deacon Phoebe Claimed Her Calling

**by Maureen Howell
(1962-)**

Serving today - Thank you!!

Preacher and Presider: Rev. Nancy Raabe
Minister of Music: Susanna Faust
Lector: 8:00, K. Seiler; 10:30, J. Shaffer
Ushers: 8:00, B. Schmidt & K. Seiler;
10:30, L. Boyer & K. Heacock
Communion Asst: 8:00, G. Lockner;
10:30, F. Stone
Altar Guild: 8:00, J. Swartz;
10:30, E. Woltmann & L. Boyer
Acolyte: 8:00, Usher; 10:30, O. Plawa
Coffee Hour: The Seilers
Council Offering & Lockup:
8:00, D. Kunkel; 10:30, C. Farrell
Video Team: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

NEXT WEEK

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord.

Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shares human flesh and sufferings

Luke 2:22-40

The child is brought to the temple

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Hosted by the Fellowship Committee, **COFFEE HOUR** is served in the Narthex. Please stay for hot drinks, home-baked snacks, and conversation!



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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