



Third Sunday after Epiphany

11:00 A.M. Service of Holy Communion

Grace Lutheran Church ~ ELCA

January 23, 2022

Good morning & Welcome to Grace!

*Our mission is to invite and welcome all
to the fellowship of Christ in service to our community.*

***This is a house of praise and prayer, of worship and rejoicing!
We are glad you are with us for worship today, as we continue to live in the hope of
new life that is ours in Christ Jesus.***

***We offer a special welcome to our guests, and to all those
who are joining us via Live-Stream.***

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP AT GRACE! The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! There is also a Children's Message for them, just prior to the reading of scripture. And, if needed, there is a nursery available for any family to use.

YOUR BULLETIN contains the worship service in its entirety, **and your parts are printed in bold type.**

DUE TO A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NEW COVID CASES, we have discerned that, at this time, it is in the best interest of those who worship here that we return to not singing during services. The hymns will still be played, and we will post the lyrics, as we are able, but we ask that you listen and not sing along.

IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE SAVING GRACE SHOWN TO US IN THE LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION EACH WEEK. All are welcome at the Table. For those with us in person, please pick up your communion elements from the table in the Narthex. Please grab a plastic bag with enough wafers for each person in your seating group (they are labeled) and one cup per person in your seating group. So, if there are three people in your seating group, you would take one bag with three wafers in it and one cup for each person, for a total of three. Gluten free wafers and cups of juice are also on the table and marked separately for those who need them.

FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING FROM HOME, please have a small glass of wine or juice and a small piece of bread available for all who are planning to commune. When we come to the Meal portion of the service, please follow along on the screen or in the bulletin. We will go through the Great Thanksgiving and the prayers and, after the Lord's Prayer, all will be invited to take their seats. At that time, the pastor will say the words: *This is the Body of Christ, given for you,* and we will all eat our wafers. The pastor will then say: *This is the Blood of Christ, shed for you,* and we will all drink our wine/juice.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS about our worship service - generally or specifically in this time of pandemic - about Baptism or Communion, about what Lutherans believe, or even about Grace Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to reach out to our pastor.

Again, welcome to worship!

GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

“You Servants of God”

ELW 825

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(All may make the sign of the cross).*

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 HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW 886

GREETING

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

KYRIE

In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”* arr. Mark Hayes

WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

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

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

And we read:

¹All 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. 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. ³He 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 they 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 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (*Plain font = pulpit side; Bold font = piano side*).

¹The heavens declare the glory 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 revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

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

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures 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 servant 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.

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.**

SECOND READING

First Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

And we read:

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 member 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 members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, 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 members 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 members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members 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 healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Luke 4:18*)

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor,
and to proclaim release to the captives. ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

And we read:

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone's acclaim and pleasure.

¹⁶⁻²¹ He came to Nazareth where he had been raised. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

God's Spirit is on me; [God has] chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free, to announce, "This is God's time to shine!"

He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, "You've just heard Scripture make history. It came true, just now, in this place."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"* **ELW 843**

THE CREED ~ *Let us affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed*

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 power of 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

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 (*a brief silence*).

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to do your will of bringing the gospel, the 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. Stir up in us the desire and dedication to help sustain all 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. Open our hearts, that we may reflect the mercy and compassion you first showed to us. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war and hate. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression. Today we remember especially, the people of Congregation Beth Israel, as they comfort one another in the aftermath of the hostage situation last week, those impacted by natural disasters, especially the people of the Tonga, those on our prayer list, and everyone we lift up to you now in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation, and help us as we seek to explore new ministries and new gifts, as individuals and as a congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn, and give them your unparalleled peace. And, at the end of all things, bring us together in your everlasting glory. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

This is normally the place in the service where we would collect the offering. We give thanks for your spirit of generosity and prayerfully ask that – if at all possible – you continue to be faithful to your financial commitment to Grace. Thank you again.

MUSICAL OFFERTORY “Prelude” Jon Ahlquist, viola J.S. Bach

OFFERING PRAYER *(Those moved to do so may stand.)*

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ, our light. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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 Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Amen

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE & THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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. **Amen**

THE 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. **Amen**

COMMUNION – This is the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

At this time, we will partake of the Bread and Cup together. Please wait for the pastor to indicate when we will eat our wafers together, and when we will drink from our cups. You are then invited to observe a moment of silent reflection on the gift of the Sacrament.

COMMUNION HYMN *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”* **ELW 489**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Once all have received the meal*)

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your love. 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**

SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

CLOSING HYMN *“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”* **ELW 551**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *“O Day of Rest and Gladness”* **ELW 521**

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