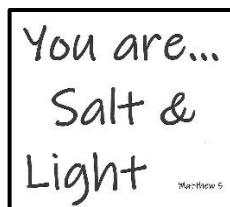


The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Grace Lutheran Church
9:00 am Contemporary Worship
Sunday, February 5, 2023



GATHERING

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Songs

"Father's House" (Cory Asbury)
"Beautiful Things" (Michael Gungor)

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13 - 20

Children's Message

Sermon

Song

"In Christ Alone" (Chad Gardner)

Prayers of the People

MEAL

Confession & Forgiveness

The Story of the Last Supper

The Lord's Prayer & Invitation to Communion

Song

"Death in His Grave" (John Mark McMillan)

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing & Dismissal

Music as You Depart*

"Death in His Grave" (reprise)

**You are welcome to remain in the worship space & listen to the music,
or you are free to depart the sanctuary as you are moved to do so.*

**Good morning & Welcome to Grace.
We are so glad you are here!**

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

From the time Jesus first presented himself for baptism by John until today, Christians have puzzled over why Jesus had to be baptized. The act of baptism was understood to be an act of repentance and the cleansing of one's sins. John does not understand why Jesus, whose sandals John is "not worthy to carry" should seek to be baptized. Instead, John declares to Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you". Why should the Son of God, who is without sin, need to be baptized?

[It is] because Jesus united with us in baptism, [that] we are united with him in both his death and resurrection. The barriers that separate us from God, including the barriers of sinfulness, mortality, and death, are broken by Jesus' obedience to God, through his humility to come down to us in the depths of our humanity. *(From 'Sundays and Seasons, AF).*

Children are welcome in worship at Grace! The voices of children only enhance worship, and they are welcome in this space! If needed, there is a nursery available for any family to use.

Your bulletin contains an outline of the worship service. We invite you to look to the screens at the front of the church for the texts to the prayers and songs, and other service information.

In thanksgiving to God for the saving grace shown to all of us in the death and resurrection of Christ, we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion each week. All are welcome at the Table. We do come forward to the front of the sanctuary for communion. The Pastor stands in the center of the aisle with the bread. Gluten-free bread is available, just let the pastor know and the dish will be offered to you, from which you may take your own wafer. Finally, both **wine (red)** and **juice (white)** are available, on both sides, based on your preference.

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. After the invitation to communion, please eat your bread and drink your cup as you are moved to do so.

If you have questions about our worship service, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you. For more information 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, we're glad you're here! Welcome to worship!