



The Third Sunday after Epiphany
Worship with Holy Communion
January 22, 2023

***Good morning & Welcome to Grace
in the time after the Epiphany.
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! 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.**

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. When we come to the Meal portion of the service, and the people who are present in person are coming forward, 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!

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

PRELUDE

“Thy Strong Word”

ELW 511

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin. (*Silence is kept for reflection*)

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God’s mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior. **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ELW 661

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Wonderful Words of Life”

Jay Rouse

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1 – 4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them. And we read:

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 27:1, 4 – 9 (*The Psalm is read in unison*)

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message – “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

**Cast me not away – you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.**

THE SECOND READING

1st Corinthians 1:10 – 18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation. And we read:

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for

you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Matthew 4:23*)

**Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
and cured every sickness among the people. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12 – 23

The holy gospel, according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples. And we read:

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"I Come With Joy"

ELW 482

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need (*a brief silence*).

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize global ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation, and those here at home, especially Manna on Meridian, Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ, your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Be with all those who are suffering under violence, oppression, or harsh rule, especially the people of Ukraine, Somalia, Iraq and South Sudan. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Send your peace to all who are sick, to the dying, to those one our prayer list, and to all those we lift up to you now in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community especially Faith Presbyterian, St. Stephen Lutheran, St. Paul United Methodist, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors; and help us share your word and your witness in this place. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen**

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

CHANCEL CHOIR OFFERTORY *"Will You Come and Follow Me"* arr. John L. Bell

OFFERING

We give thanks to you, the people of Grace, for your faithful commitment to supporting our ministries through your giving. If you would like to offer a gift, the collection plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for your convenience. Thank you again.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Those moved to do so may rise.)

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

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

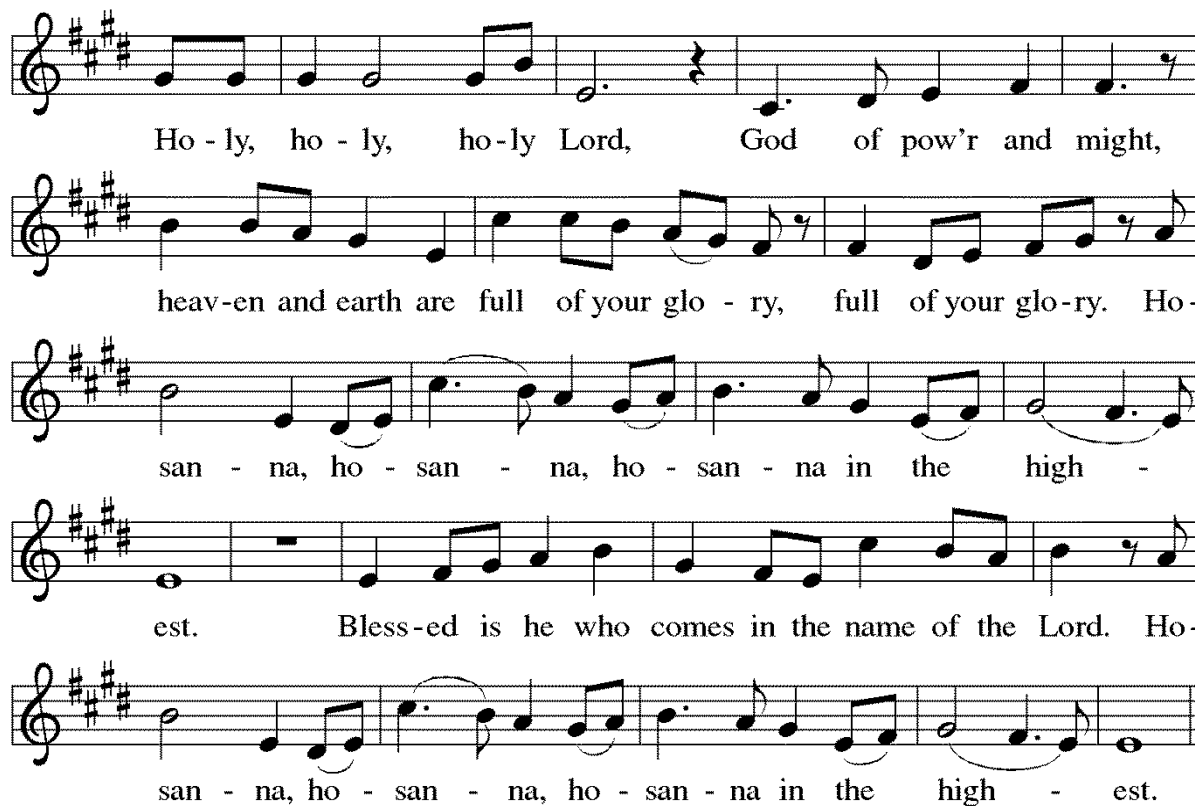
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The minister continues with the proper preface:

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 (THE SANCTUS)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

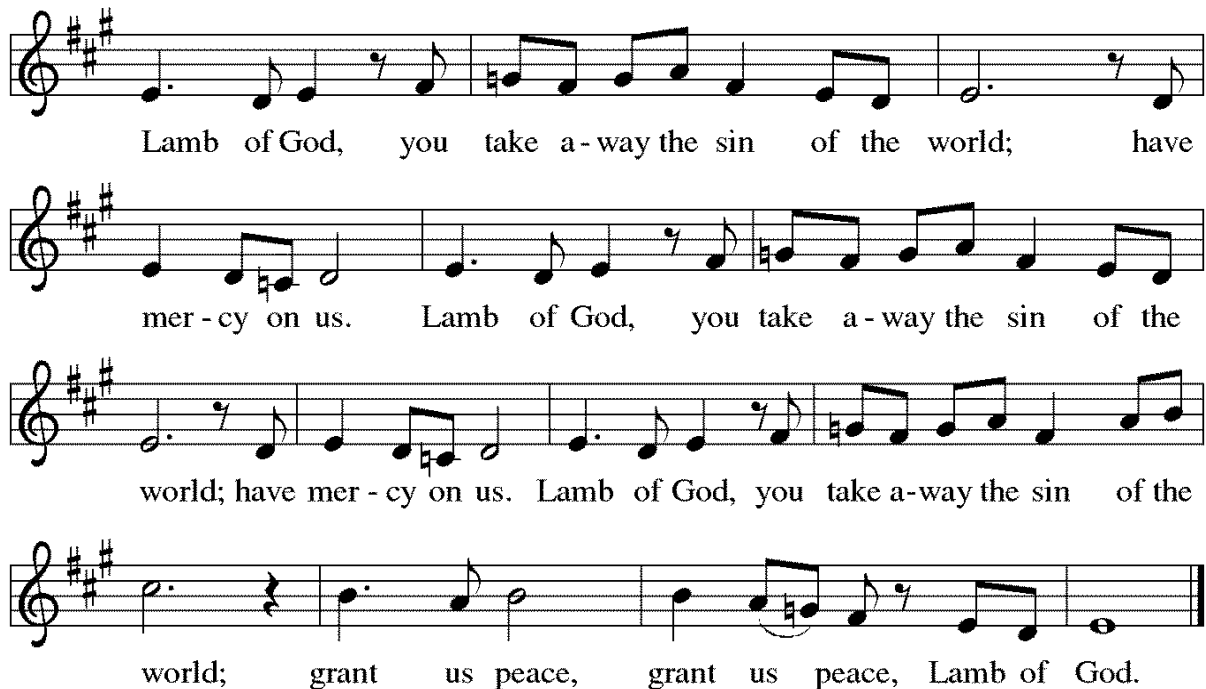
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 and taste the joy of God! **Amen**

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, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Here I Am, Lord"
"Here Is Bread"

ELW 574
ELW 483

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this Table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen**

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

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN

"We Are Marching in the Light"

ELW 866

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus!
We will! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW 671

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