

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Epiphany of Our Lord January 3, 2021 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Flowers

The flowers are given by Bob and Kathryn Jandeska and Bob and Margaret Burke in honor of the 90th birthday of Susan Messerli.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

The days are short this time of year. The dark of night lasts longer. But it does not last forever. The sun rises each day, chasing away the gloom and calling us back to life. During this winter, things have seemed particularly dark. The night, however, does not last forever. The promise of Isaiah has been fulfilled in the coming of Christ. The glory of which the angels first sang over Bethlehem has burst forth fully in the resurrection. Jesus' light shines for us in dark places and calls us back to life. With the Magi, let us seek the light and the life of Christ in this new year, placing our lives in his praise and service.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 in B-flat Major, BWV 1051

J. S. Bach arr. D. Kelley

III. Allegro

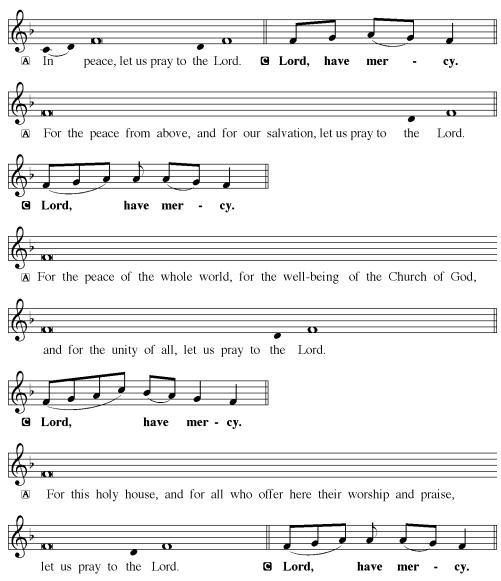


Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE





HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest





PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

L

ANTIPHON: All kings shall bow down before him.

- ☐ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,* and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- **G** that he may rule your | people righteously* and the | poor with justice;
- Let that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,* and the little | hills bring righteousness.
- **G** He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;* he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.
- L He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,* from one generation | to another.
- **G** He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,* like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- In his time shall the | righteous flourish;* there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,* and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.
- All kings shall bow | down before him,* and all the nations | do him service.
- G For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,* and the oppressed who | has no helper.
- Let He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor;* he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- **G** He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,* and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.



SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **©** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE: Matthew 2:2 Robert Wetzler

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

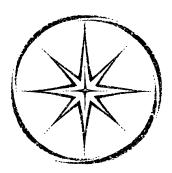
⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

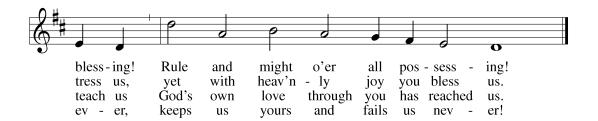
CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Rise and Shine

Pastor David R. Lyle Isaiah 60:1–6; Matthew 2:1–12



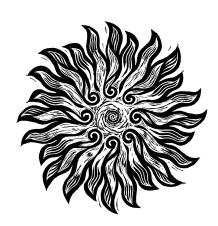




- Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is he, the King of glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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NICENE CREED

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Nur ein Wink von seinen Händen

Just one wave of his hands

Stürzt ohnmächtger Menschen Macht.

Casts down the feeble strength of humans.

Hier wird alle Kraft verlacht!

Here all strength is derided!

Spricht der Höchste nur ein Wort,

If the Most High speaks but one word

Seiner Feinde Stolz zu enden,

To put an end to the arrogance of his foes,

O, so müssen sich sofort

Oh, then at once must

Sterblicher Gedanken wenden.

Their mortal thoughts be thwarted.

tr. Karen P. Danford

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- ▶ Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- @ Amen.



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
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DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister
The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister
Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Susan Nelson, soprano
Jeremy Zimmer, continuo organist
Kontras Quartet

Eleanor Bartsch, violin Henry Zheng, violin* Ben Weber, viola Jean Hatmaker, cello

Eunice Eifert, videographer Justin Martin, sound board operator

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^{*}substitute violinist with the quartet

LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Ed Borg Tina Baird Marilyn Gotsch Annalise Balock Carl and Donna Gruendler Cathy Barker David Gruendler Iim Barker Kathy Haves

Len Berghaus Patricia Herendeen Anne-Marie Bogdan Joan Koerber

Ellis Allinson (brother-in-law of Carolyn Garber) Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

Mardie Anderson (friend of Christie Nelson)

Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell)

Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel)

James Beglin (cousin of Cathy Schnittker) Karen Berglund (friend of Carol Stanger)

Breann Beveridge (daughter of Ellie and Randy Schnack)

Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz) Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson)

Ken Briggs (friend of many at Grace)

Mike and Beth Bullock (parents of Keith Bullock)

Linda Castaing (friend of Marnie Rourke)

Jim Cozzi (friend of Diana Sicuro)

Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack)

Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel)

Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein)

David Eastman and family (brother of Pat Anderson)

Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Emily Ford (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Hill)

Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz)

Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen) Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason)

Sue Heinze (sister of Pat Gulik)

Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner)

Mia Rose Jones (granddaughter of John and Loretta Lattyak)

Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson)

Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten)

Sally Kindsfater (sister of Mary Jane Endicott)

Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat)

Ron and Jeanette Koski (parents of Jill Koski)

George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma)

Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson)

Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson)

Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson)

Maxx Kusper and family (friends of Deb Maxwell)

Alyssa Kutak (granddaughter-in-law of Galen Gockel)

John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson)

Lily (friend of Carrie Douma)

Elsie Locke (grandmother of Troy Medlin)

Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli)

Kari Lyle (sister-in-law of Dave and Erika Lyle)

Tim Sandvoss Jerry Koenig Margaret Kruse Marge Sanger Beth Smoots McClanahan Pat Scala Karen McMahon Carl Schalk Jennifer Murtoff Ron Serpico Chrissy Nelson Madison Staples

Paul Nelson Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Jim Maggio (brother of Joe Maggio)

Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich)

Jane Martin (mother of Justin Martin)

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb

Maxwell)

Denny McClerren (cousin of Stephanie Wilkening) Monika Nash (daughter of Don and Verna Offermann)

Joan Nelson (mother of Julie Modrich)

Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester)

Rosie Parker (mother of Cameron Parker)

Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt)

James Powers (friend of Al Swanson)

Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott)

Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba)

Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson)

Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson)

John Rohleder (friend of Sandy Grams) Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Shirley Moyers Schnack (sister-in-law of Randy Schnack)

John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma) Lindsay Shaner (brother of Bob Shaner)

Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner)

Ken and Lori Shoup (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Zina and Huxley Shoup (friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner)

Ruth Soppet (friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten)

Lee Stephens (brother of Tony)

Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester)

Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone)

Jan Thomson (sister-in-law of Christine Phillips)

Donald Tremper (brother of Virginia Walker)

Wes Van Dell (brother of Emily Hartung)

Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel)

Brian Walden (relative of Pat Gulik)

Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz)

Sonja Wandro (sister of Al Swanson)

Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen)

Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas)

Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz)

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik)

Kathie Wolff (friend of Tim Duoma)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Chicago Cornerstone Academy

For those who mourn

Ruth Barker Dorcas Doering (sister of Carol Prinz) Joan Fudala (mother of Greg Fudala) Eric Wolfanger (brother of Lisa Wolfanger)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus)
Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout)
Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks)
David Danford (son of John and Karen)
E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting)
Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz)
Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (Germany) Drew Krueger (England)

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes Carolyn Martin Christopher Davis Joanne Nelson Marie Gierke Barbara Rinnan Ronald Gresens Kathleen Wrobel

Gloria Hillert

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oakhill Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone)
Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie)
Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss)
Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat)
Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- □ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail,
 - Sunday Is Coming.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.



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www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager

Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance