

**SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**January 6-7, 2024**  
**Epiphany Of Our Lord & Baptism of Our Lord**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**  
**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary E Benson**

**OUR MISSION**

Proclaiming God's Love, God's Promises,  
and the Abundant Life

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INVOCATION**

We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!  
**Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then 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." <sup>9</sup>When 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**GATHERING HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! / Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. / Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! / God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, / casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; / cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, / which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, / though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see, / only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, / perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! / All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. / Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! / God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt. Public Domain.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Trusting the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE      "Christ, Be Our Light"**

Christ, be our light! / Shine in our hearts. / Shine through the darkness. / Christ, be our light! / Shine in Your church gathered today.

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God!**

### **SECOND READING: Acts 19:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — <sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God!**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? / You have the words of eternal life. / Alleluia!  
Alleluia!

### **THE GOSPEL Mark 1:4-11**

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY****"Borning Cry"**

"I was there to hear your borning cry, / I'll be there when you are old. / I rejoiced the day you were baptized, / to see your life unfold. / I was there when you were but a child, / with a faith to suit you well; / In a blaze of light you wandered off / to find where demons dwell."

"When you heard the wonder of the Word / I was there to cheer you on; / You were raised to praise the living Lord, / to whom you now belong. / If you find someone to share your time / and you join your hearts as one, / I'll be there to make your verses rhyme / from dusk 'till rising sun."

In the middle ages of your life, / not too old, no longer young, / I'll be there to guide you through the night, / complete what I've begun. / When the evening gently closes in, / and you shut your weary eyes, / I'll be there as I have always been / with just one more surprise."

"I was there to hear your borning cry, / I'll be there when you are old. / I rejoiced the day you were baptized, / to see your life unfold."

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**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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. 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**

**After each petition: God of grace, receive our prayer.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Holy one,  
**for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION                    **"Come to the Table of Mercy"**

Come to the table of mercy, / prepared with the wine and the bread. / All who are hungry and thirsty, / come, and your souls will be fed. / Come at the Lord's invitation; / receive from his nail-scarred hand. / Eat of the bread of salvation; / drink of the blood of the Lamb.

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### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION

### BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

**Amen.**

God our redeemer,

**you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

God bless you and keep you, Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN      "Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; / there is no shadow of turning with thee; / thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; / as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! / Morning by morning new mercies I see; / all I have needed thy hand hath provided; / great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, / sun, moon, and stars in their courses above / join with all nature in manifold witness / to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, / thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; / strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, / blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVING AS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

Choir Director	Ken Carnes
Accompanist/Pianist	Sandy Hobbs
Scripture Reader	Lyla Dramise
Video Production	Jerry Huston, Richard Johnson

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Visitors, Guests and Friends!** Let us know that you are here by using this QR code. We are so happy that you have joined us in worship.



**Worship Time Change!**  
**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**8am and 10am**

**WELCOME SESSIONS** are an opportunity for new and long-time visitors to learn about our church and how you can be more connected and committed to our ministry. You will meet other prospective members, learn about our vision, mission and values, and our various ministries. Our next Welcome Session is Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am - noon.

So that we may have sufficient materials, please call the church office (623-977-6000, ext. 100) to register. Hope to see you there!

**2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE** For those who have not yet picked up their Envelopes for next year, they are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Please Note: If you did not pick up or use your 2023 envelopes, the 2024 envelopes have not been issued. *However, if you still want to notify Merly@spiritofgrace.com or 623-977-6000, ext. 100).*

**THE WORK OF THE SOG CIVIC** Engagement Ministry uses Our Prayers, Our Action and Our Voices to address social challenges, especially poverty and hunger. Today we welcome our partner in lending Voice: Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA), a branch of the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod and one of 17 such groups in the nation. Executive Director Solveig Muus will be with us on Sunday; a brief LAMA video will be shown at the start of the service on Saturday. Please stop by the CME table in the narthex after services for more CME information!

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** is the last Tuesday of the month, next on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 8am. We're offering a new menu variation with breakfast sandwiches and hash browns. There will of course be the usual juice, fruit cup, pastries, and coffee. Bruce Belanger will lead the men in discussing selected scripture lessons. Please sign up to attend on clipboard in the Narthex.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS** January 28, Bring your donations to the Valley View Community Food Bank next Sunday. ***If anyone sees a brother or sister in need...let us not love with words or speech but in actions and with truth.*** I John 3:17-18.

**GRIEFSHARE WILL RESUME** Thursdays, January 25<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am - 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. To register Call: Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church (623)977-6000 or online at [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)  
Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369.

*You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to participate in this program.*

### **BLOOD PRESURE CHECKS**

High blood pressure is no laughing matter. So before heading out to your favorite restaurant for breakfast, get your blood pressure checked. It only takes a few minutes! Blood pressures will be checked Sunday, January 28, in the conference room from 10:00 am to 10:30am.

**SPRING BASEBALL** - The March 7 baseball tickets for the AZ Diamondbacks and the Texas Rangers will only be available this weekend in the narthex. After that the remaining unsold tickets must be returned to the ballpark. Cost: \$52 includes meal & drink and reserved seating in the Legion's Section.

**THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** - Our 25th Anniversary Celebration is just one week away: Sunday, January 14, 2024. Come meet and greet the Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, Rev. Deborah Hutterer, and the current and former Pastors and

Associate Pastors of Spirit of Grace at 9:00 am in the Narthex. Join the worship service starting at 9:30am and, if you don't have a ticket for breakfast, return for the Anniversary Celebration Program in the Sanctuary at 11:30am. Bring your family and friends to this special day.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATION** needs to be taken down before the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please come on Monday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

**GET READY FOR ALL THAT JAZZ** — The All-Stars Big Band will be jazzing it up with the theme of Mardi Gras and New Orleans jazz for our February 4 Fellowship event. The concert will be held in the sanctuary from 2:30-3:30 pm, followed by a Mardi Gras dessert in Cafe Grace. Cost \$5. Tickets will go on sale in the narthex this weekend Jan 6 & 7!

**CHOIR**

If there are those who have been in choir, or those who would like to sing just once, I would like to encourage you to think about singing with us for the upcoming church anniversary celebration. Start attending the first Tuesday after the New Year. Rehearsal begins January 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 pm. Contact Choir Director Ken Carnes at 402-217-9274.

**The Middle East – What’s Going on There?** Wednesdays, January 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 10-11 a.m. Winnie Fritz, a member of Spirit of Grace, will be presenting on the geography, culture, history, & current events. Winnie has lived in the Middle East all or part of every year for 51 years. Come and learn.

**SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR**  
**January 6 – January 14**

**Saturday, January 6**

5:00 pm Worship Service

**Sunday, January 7**

9:00 am Worship Service

**Monday, January 8**

9:30 am Martha Circle

1:00 pm Mary Circle

**Tuesday, January 9**

9am Staff meeting

9:30 Rachel Circle

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

\*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 10**

9:00 am Counseling Ministry\*

\*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Middle East Presentation

1:00 pm civic ministry

**Thursday, January 11**

9:30 Deborah Circle

1:00 Elizabeth Circle

**Friday, January 12**

**Saturday, January 13**

5:00 pm Worship Service

**Sunday, January 14**

9:30 am 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Worship Service