

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**January 27-28, 2024
4th Sunday After Epiphany**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler**

OUR MISSION

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MINUTES **"Women of the ELCA"** **Sue Todd**
 "A Future with Hope!" **Bruce Belanger**

INVOCATION

Grace, mercy and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 62, Jonah 3, 1 Corinthians 7)

The God of all creation calls us.

We come, knowing that our deliverance and honor rest in God.

Powerful and constant love belong to God.

We celebrate the presence of our mighty, loving God.

Holy One, God of all Creation, you call us to be your people,

to carry your vision in this time and place,

to go where you send us

bringing your amazing good news.

As we gather in the presence of the risen Christ,

Fill us with your glorious Spirit, that we may share your good news with a world in need. Amen.

OPENNING HYMN "Gather us in"

Here in this place the new light is streaming, / now is the darkness vanished away; / see in this space our fears and our dreamings / brought here to you in the light of this day. / Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, / gather us in, the blind and the lame; / call to us now, and we shall awaken, / we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, / we are the old who yearn for your face; / we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, / called to be light to the whole human race. / Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, / gather us in, the proud and the strong; / give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, / give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, / here we will take the bread of new birth, / here you shall call your sons and your daughters, / call us anew to be salt for the earth. / Give us to drink the wine of compassion, / give us to eat the bread that is you; / nourish us well, and teach us to fashion / lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, / not in some heaven, light years away— / here in this place the new light is shining, / now is the kingdom, and now is the day. / Gather us in and hold us forever, / gather us in and make us your own; / gather us in, all peoples together, / fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of life,

you promise good news 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it / This is the day that the Lord has made / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

Grace Chimes

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

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 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

Pastor Elaine Siemsen

HYMN OF THE DAY "Goodness is Stronger than Evil"

Goodness is stronger than evil; / love is stronger than hate; / light is stronger than darkness; / life is stronger than death; / vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, / through God who loves us. / Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours, / through God who loves us.

Text from *An African Prayer Book* selected by Desmond Tutu, © 1995 by Desmond Tutu. Used by permission of Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc., and Lynn C. Franklin Associates, Ltd. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-706001.

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 **Sat: "The Beauty of Holiness" Sandy Hobbs**
 Sun: "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone" Harold Tilstra

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

Use all that we offer to serve your mission among us. And now meet us in the holy supper where in bread and cup you open heaven to us. May we receive your gifts and follow in your ways, through your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We praise you, O God,

For nurturing our past, our present, our future;

For the universe beyond our knowing,

For the desert in which we live,

For creatures seen and unseen,

For our ancestors from many cultures.

We praise you for your covenant people, for Moses and Miriam and Aaron,

For traditions of prayer and praise, giving and thanksgiving.

We praise you, for the leaders of your church,

And for all who offer their faithful service.

We praise you for your Son, O God, who saves us from sin and from evil,
who continues to lead us to new life.

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.

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.

And so we remember your Son, his life, his death, and his glorious resurrection, his word, and his presence in this meal, and we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray that you send your Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom,
your guidance everywhere in the church.

Send your Spirit upon the bread and cup;

renew the world with your mercy.

We praise you, holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit,

Abba, Living Water, Breath of Life, today, tomorrow and forever. Amen!

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.

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “On Our Way rejoicing”

On our way rejoicing / gladly let us go. / Christ our Lord has conquered; /
vanquished is the foe. / Christ without, our safety; / Christ within, our joy; / who,
if we be faithful, / can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing; / as we forward move, / hearken to our praises, / O blest
God of love!

Unto God the Father / joyful songs we sing; / unto God the Savior / thankful
hearts we bring; / unto God the Spirit / bow we and adore, / on our way rejoicing
/ now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

Renewed in the grace of God, let us go forth to share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING AS WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Grace Chimes Choir Director
Choir Accompanist/Pianist
Online Scripture Reader
Video Production

Barbara Stenberg
Sandy Hobbs
Jackie Fergestad
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.



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 5th 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!

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING Our annual meeting is on Sunday, February 4th between services (9am). It includes elections, 2024 budget and reports.

A FUTURE WITH HOPE WEEKEND (NEXT WEEKEND!)

Members of Spirit of Grace will be receiving a mailing with information about our Stewardship emphasis titled "A Future with Hope". A letter, brochure and "Statement of

Intent" will be included. On February 4th, bring your Statement of Intent to be received during worship. It is going to be a special time of coming together to commit and support out ministry together. If you are not a member but would like to be included please contact the office.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY meets Wednesday at 10am. Pastor Scott will take you through the Gospel of Mark which is our focus in worship this coming year. Come and learn about this important book of the Bible.

BASEBALL GAME

If you purchased seats for the March 7 baseball game between the Texas Rangers and the AZ Diamondbacks—PLEASE PICK UP YOUR TICKETS this weekend in the narthex.

GET YOUR CONCERT TICKET

Bring a new friend to MARDI GRAS & ALL THAT JAZZ. February 4 @ 2:30 followed by fellowship and King Cake in our own Mardi Gras Cafe. Cost \$5. Tickets on sale this weekend! Mark your calendars! LIBERTY QUARTET is returning soon with "HIS STRENGTH" - March 10 @ 6 pm.

MEN'S BREAKFAST is the last Tuesday of the month. The next one is on January 30th 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE 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 at 9:00 am and 11:00am.

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

Thursdays until April 18th 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
Deborah Frusciano: 602-909-8369. *You do not need to be a member of Spirit of Grace to participate in this program.*

WOMEN'S MINISTRY (WELCA) is having a tea party. February 15 at 11am. A high tea lunch will be served followed by our own Ellie Brooks, author, and researcher. The cost is \$15. Bring your own teacup and wear your favorite hat and come have tea with us.

MEN'S CHOIR

Calling all men...If you are so inclined, we would love to have you join us this next Tuesday, January 16, at 3:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall. We will be preparing music for church services on February 4.

HELP WANTED!

Website Administrator – someone in partnership with Pastor Scott, who has average computer skills or better, willing to help maintain and improve our website.

Council Recording Secretary – working alongside the Council Secretary to record minutes at Council Meetings.

SPIRIT OF GRACE CALENDAR

January 27 – February 4

Saturday, January 27

5:00 pm Worship Service

Sunday, January 28

8:00 am Service

10:00 am Service

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Blood pressure checks

Monday, January 29

Tuesday, January 30

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

9:00 am Staff meeting

12:00 pm Counseling Ministry

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

1:00 pm library Ministry

3:00 pm Chimes Rehearsal

3:00 pm Men's Choir

4:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 31

9:00 am Counseling Ministry*

*By appointment only

with Dr Joe Dramise

10:00 am Bible Study

Thursday, February 1

9:00 am Online Worship
video recording

10:00 am Griefshare

Friday, February 2

9:30 am Bulletin Assemble

Saturday, February 3

5:00 pm Worship – "A Future..."

Sunday, February 4

8:00 am Worship – "A Future..."

9:00 am Annual Meeting

10:00 am Worship – "A Future..."

2:30 pm Concert