

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
January 16 & 17, 2021 –Sunday 2nd After the Epiphany

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

OUR VISION

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Come, Share the Lord” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine, / let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine, / let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; / Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine, / let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love. Holy God,

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and those we share with all. We turn inward, failing to follow

your outward way of love. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

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 the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”..... Ken Carnes

THE READING: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Lee Luft

Lord, you have searched me out; O Lord, you have known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be. How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “Come and See!” *Pastor Gary Benson*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Here I Am, Lord"

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, / I have heard my people cry. / All who dwell in deepest sin / my hand will save. / I, who made the stars of night, / I will make their darkness bright. / Who will bear my light to them? / Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? / I have heard you calling in the night. / I will go, Lord, if you lead me. / I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, / I have borne my people's pain. / I have wept for love of them. / They turn away. / I will break their hearts of stone, / give them hearts for love alone. / I will speak my word to them. / Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, / I will tend the poor and lame. / I will set a feast for them. / My hand will save. / Finest bread I will provide / till their hearts be satisfied. / I will give my life to them. / Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

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APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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

THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: 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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

C: 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

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

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: "O God of Mercy, God of Light"

O God of mercy, God of light, / in love and mercy infinite, / teach us, as ever in your sight, / to live our lives in you.

You sent your Son to die for all, / that our lost world might hear your call; / oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! / We rest our hope in you.

For all are kindred, far and wide, / since Jesus Christ for all has died; / grant us the will, and grace provide / to love them all in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Hymn vocalists: Larry Branen, Laurel Branen, Terry Pierce, Cathy Pierce

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

RUNNING THE RACE

"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philipians 3:13-14