

**Order of Worship**  
**Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**  
**January 29, 2023**



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**745 S. Ingraham Avenue**  
**Lakeland, FL 33801**  
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**[www.gracelakeland.com](http://www.gracelakeland.com)**

# ✠ GATHERING ✠

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water is poured into the font.*

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. Strengthen us so that we may be able to continue in our baptismal covenant to: live among God's faithful people,

hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serve all people following the example of Jesus, and strive for justice and peace in all the world.

And to you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## GREETING

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.**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## ✝ WORD ✝

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 15

*(Read responsively by half verse)*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
**who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
**they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.  
**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Matthew 4:23 --5:12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>24</sup>So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. <sup>25</sup>And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is

great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

## SERMON

## HYMN

*When the Poor Ones*

ELW 725



- 1 Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,  
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,  
when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:  
when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;  
when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us;  
when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble;  
when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor;

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;  
We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.  
we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.



## INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

### 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 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 THE PEOPLE

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church in the paths of humility. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

All that you have created bears witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, wisdom, and healing to those suffering from illness and addiction, *particularly Arlene, Tim, Mike, Anna Mae, Julie, Carole G., Carol, Anne, Lydia, Paul, John, Betty, Scott, Marian L., Ron, Flo, Doris, Dottie, Theresa, Marian P., Ian, Tim, Julie, Ruth, Ed, Henry Mary, Greg, and Max.* Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, draw to our remembrance of your saving acts over the years. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Other petitions may be offered.*

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Your faithfulness accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust that you abide with your people always. 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.**

## **EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

Peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*We prepare now to receive our offerings as we return to God a portion of what God has entrusted to us.*

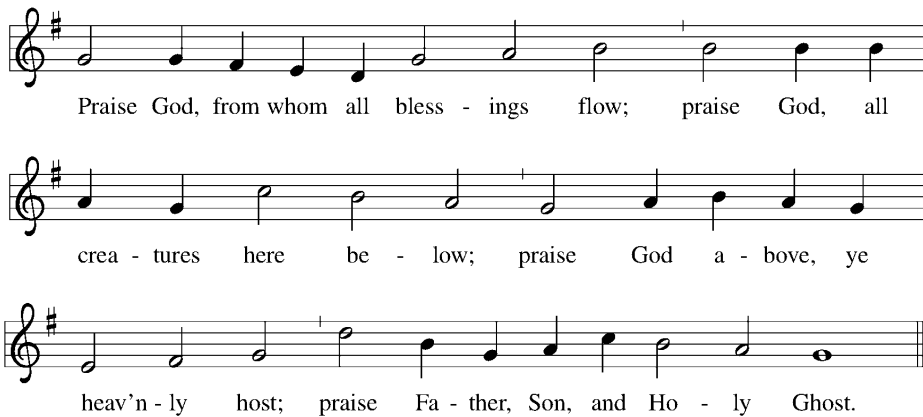
# ✠ MEAL ✠

## OFFERING

*You may place your offerings in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Alternatively, some are using [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) for online giving or are using their bank's online banking option. Whichever way you choose to give, we are grateful for your stewardship and generosity.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING

### OFFERING SONG



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

# HOLY COMMUNION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts.

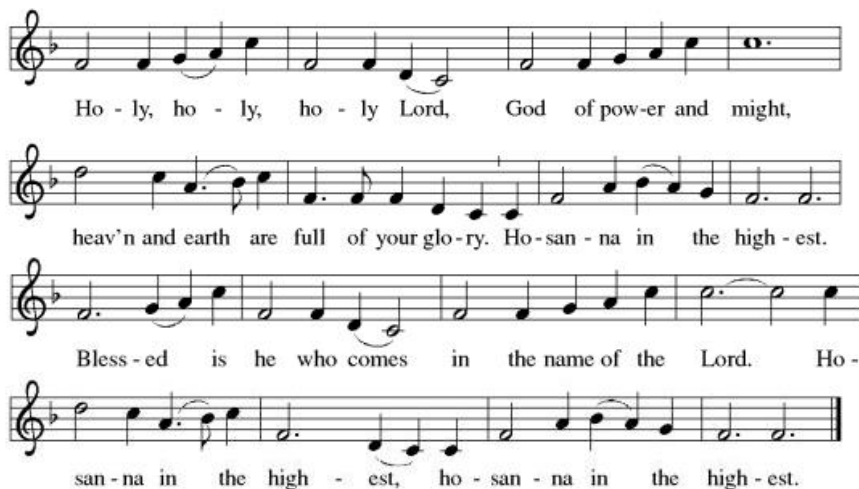
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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:



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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. 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

*This holy meal is for all the baptized children of God. We commune at the altar rail. The ushers will direct you down the center aisle. Please go to an open spot at the altar rail. After you have received the host, the first chalice is for intinction and the second chalice is for drinking. A third chalice of grape juice is also offered. Please let the Pastor know if you wish to receive gluten-free wafers. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

### *As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.



*Holy, Holy, Holy*

ELW 473

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te a - do - ra.  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - does you.

Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor.  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. The melody is in the Treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the Bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has two lines of lyrics. The second system has two lines of lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

**BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

And now may the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ preserve us on to life everlasting.

**Amen.**



## Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let  
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.  
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff ends with a period, the second with a comma, the third with a comma, and the fourth with a double bar line.

## 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 ✠

HYMN

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth*

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

**BENEDICTION**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



Photo taken by Pastor Pam in 2017 at the Abbey, Iona, Scotland

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***Holy, Holy, Holy.*** Text: Argentine traditional. Music: Argentine traditional.

***The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve.*** Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Over recent months we have added video and audio equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and also to have them available for later viewing through our website. Likewise, we may use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary. Thanks!