

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



February 7, 2021

9:30 a.m.

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Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

“We share God’s love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world.”

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: 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 the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. 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.

GATHERING HYMN “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*Text: Charles Wesley; Music: Carl G. Glaser, arr. Lowell Mason
This selection is in the public domain.*

GREETING

P: The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

P: Lord have mercy.

C: **Christ have mercy.**

P: Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Unison*

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on
earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

**Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us
agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known
to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off

like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

The LORD heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly,
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,

⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c}Hallelujah!

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

God entrusted Paul with the responsibility of bringing the gospel to diverse people. Hence the focus of Paul's ministry is not his own rights or privileges as an apostle but the privilege of serving God by freely sharing the good news of Christ with others.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. The servant of God took our infirmities and bore our diseases.

Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Mark 1:29-39

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the

demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, Be Our Light”

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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 power of 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

P: Let us pray...O God,

C: receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feasts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "I Love to Tell the Story"

Text: Katherine Hankey; Music: William E. Fischer. This selection is in the public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Paul Denstaedt, Gerald Lancaster, Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don, Verna & Tammy Furze, Larry Nelson, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Joanne Nicholls, Deb Nitchman's Family, Diane Prevost, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Allison, Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod staff, Lyn Marshall, Joanne Coughlin, Bob Mackie, Sylvia Rouech, Jimmy Lappan, Herb Schiller, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Laura Bleau, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin.

Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Faith Formation Program at All Saints Catholic Parish. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: St. Paul Lutheran Church/Au Gres, Rev. Max Miller.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please call (354-2640) or email (officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org) the Church Office.

ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY MARCH 7TH

Council is announcing the Annual Meeting of the congregation for Sunday March 7th at 11 am. At this time, the meeting will be entirely online with the Zoom platform. Council reviews the current Covid-19 situation in our area monthly and makes a determination on how best and safest to worship for the coming month. If there is a change to allowing a combination meeting of in-person and online as we did in the fall, announcements will be made of this. *If you have an annual report for your group in the church, please get it to Peggy as soon as possible this week so that it may be included in our annual report booklet.*

IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN SUSPENDED

Along with most of our ecumenical partners in Alpena, our in-person worship services remain suspended for the time being.

LENT THIS YEAR

In the place of an ecumenical series this year, Grace will be having weekly devotions online. Watch for details to come.

VIEW SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM ONLINE

Sunday morning worship service will be livestreamed. The worship will be conducted with a very limited number of worship leaders in the sanctuary and can be viewed as it is happening. Go to www.gracelutheran-alpena.org for the link to the YouTube livestream. A recording of the service will be available for viewing anytime afterwards.

WATCHING GRACE'S WORSHIP ON THE INTERNET

Several people have mentioned that using their smart TVs that are connected to the internet for viewing the worship services have offered them the bigger picture of course and as importantly for some, better sound. Hope you are enjoying the worship livestreamed.

YOUTH GROUP

We are looking to start some virtual Zoom Youth Group meetings over the next couple months. If you have youth at Grace Lutheran between 7th and 12th grade please contact Valerie Slaght with the name of your youth, contact info, and their level of interest! vslaght98@gmail.com or text at 989-255-5166.

THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PASTOR TOM

A sincere thank you for the very generous Christmas gift. It is truly appreciated. I haven't yet decided on one thing it might go toward. Though I suspect it will likely involve something photographic.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES DEVOTIONAL

Christ in Our Homes Devotional for January - March are available in the Office Lobby. Pick one up during office hours of Tuesday - Thursday 8 am to noon or call the office and we will mail one to you.

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

The new *Living Lutheran* from the ELCA for January and February is also available in the Office Lobby. Several back issues are there too.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Average needed each week to meet budget	\$ 4,489.00
Weekly giving - January 31	4,350.00

We received:

18 envelopes, 21 Simply Giving recurring payments and
2 Give+ payments made from our website

FEBRUARY



Anniversaries of Baptism



February 3
Darlene Freel

February 5
Judith Douglas

February 12
Thomas Lappan

February 13
Stephanie Adamski

February 16
Alexandra Priebe

February 19
Rhonda Himes
Cody Suszek

February 22
Joseph Gentry
Steven Lappan

February 23
Mitchell Agius
Judy Black
Laura Thompson

February 24
Kenda Yochum

February 25
Gracelyn Gohlke

February 26
Kurt Smith

February 27
Matthew Haske
Rebecca Petrilli

February 28
Davis Crittenden

Birthdays



February 2
Brianna Himes
Charles McKay

February 3
Alexandra Priebe

February 4
Kathryn Reynolds
Karen Upham

February 5
Eleanor Coddington
Kurt Smith

February 6
Stephanie Ihnat
Bob Stacey

February 7
Jeremy Jacobs

February 9
Sandra Garant

February 10
Kaitlyn Schultz
Tracey Urlaub

February 11
Keri Bertrand
Erwin Simi

February 15
Matthew Haske
Cheryl Werblow

February 18
Joel Suszek

February 19
Jon Carr
Michael Dekett
Trevor Denstaedt
Taylor Hayward

February 20
Maggie O'Connor

February 21
Dustin Crittenden

February 22
Mary Rowader

February 24
Barb Werle

February 27
Joshua Engstrom

February 28
Astrid Fitzpatrick



Wedding Anniversaries

2nd Gerald & Barbara Mudge
12th Edward & Elvira Jahnke
16th Gene & Cynthia Domrase

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**
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