

Third Sunday after the Epiphany



January 24, 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

(the assembly stands as you are able)

(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 “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

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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*

**Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah’s dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question “On whom should God have mercy?”

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and

everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

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

Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult”

*Text: Cecil F. Alexander; Music: William H. Jude.
This selection is in the public domain.*

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 "Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Paul Denstaedt, Nancy Platt, Darlene Freel, 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 Music Ministry at Trinity Episcopal Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partners: St. Paul Lutheran Church/Au Gres, Supply Pastors and the Eastern North Dakota Synod/Fargo, ND, Bishop Tessa Moon Leiseth.

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED - EMBRACING THE ROLE OF THE BEGINNER

Do you like to learn? Do you like to do new things in front of other people? Children are adventuresome to try new things. like learning to walk and seldom embarrassed about falling down. What can we learn from them about exploring the world and ideas? What new things have you learned about your faith across your lifetime? Have any changed your faith? Let's talk about learning new things in life and faith. See you at 11 on Zoom. Contact Pastor Tom for the Zoom connection information.

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.

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.

LIVESTREAMING TEAM – *BE PART OF THE TEAM*

Help place our worship services on the internet so people can view them from home. People are needed to operate the system during the service now and in the future. Changing the camera views, adding the words and sending the service to the internet all by pushing buttons. A training and a script will be provided. David Delano will be our in-house person to head the group and train anyone interested. Contact the office 354.2640. THANK YOU.

COMMUNION IN THE HOME – *DRIVE THRU PICKUP*

Packages of home communion will be distributed by Pastor Tom from the front drive at Grace Lutheran on **Tuesday January 26th from 1 pm – 3 pm** and on **Wednesday January 27th from 11 am - 1 pm**. Pastor Tom will bring the package out to you in your car. Please enter the circle from the Second Ave side. In the package will be a short reading that you can use as you take communion yourself or with others. (Doing this is based on the communion we take to homes of Loving Care Members.) The communion itself is packaged individually with the wafer sealed on top of a small sealed cup of juice. The communion is meant to be consumed the day you receive it if at all possible and not really meant to be saved for another time.

Please call the office, 354.2640, if you would like a package made up for you, the number of communion packets for you and/or your family and which time you are coming to pick it up. (If you cannot make those times, please let us know so we can attempt to arrange another time.)

Thanks, *Pastor Tom*

DONATIONS FOR LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Donations have been coming in to the Little Food Pantry throughout the holiday season and we are very fortunate to share with others through our pantry. Thank you! Please remember if you contribute items that we have no refrigeration and if you place items in the outside pantry that this time of year things freeze. Appreciate donations be placed inside. Thank you so much and Happy New Year!

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.

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Do we have all your current info?
Have you changed your primary phone?
New email?
Or new street address? Or PO Box?
Please update the office with any of these changes so we can be in touch. THANKS

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 17	3,460.00
<u>We received:</u>	
14 envelopes, 19 Simply Giving recurring payments and 1 Give+ payment made from our website	



Birthdays



January 2
Mitchell Agius
Sharlene Kennedy

January 16
Levi Konarzewski
Allison Urlaub

January 5
Judy Black
Ryan Schultz

January 19
Rhonda Himes

January 7
Susan Stacey

January 22
Michael Lang
Elsa Phillips

January 9
Arnold Jahnke

January 25
Pamela Nowak

January 10
Michael Herrmann
Elfie Jahnke
Kat Tomaszewski

January 28
Jerry Charter

January 12
Richard Engstrom
David Hansen

January 29
Madelyn Boyd

January 30
Judy Dorr
Adam Urlaub

Anniversaries of Baptism



January 1
Alec Kennedy
Jessica Timm

January 19
Sandra Malaski
Meredith Smith

January 7
Douglas Chroninger
Olivia Haske

January 20
Matthew Freel

January 15
Michael Townsend

January 21
Kasandra McInerney
Ricky Slater

January 16
Betty Dulebohn

January 24
Brody Nowak

January 17
Erika Nicholls

January 25
Lisa McIntosh

January 18
Nancy Stachnik

January 30
Hannah Matzke
Erin McCourt

January 31
Brent Welch



GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH **119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**
Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Phone: Office 354-2640 Pastor's Home 356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 916-8759
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