



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**Epiphany Observed**

**January 2, 2022**

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**Welcome:** We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. For those worshipping in person please take time to register your attendance using the slips in the pew rack. These can be placed in the offering plates by the door as you exit.

**Prayer Requests** are always welcome. To have someone included in our prayers during worship, please call the pastor or church office or write down the request and give it to the pastor.

**Lectionary Summary:** The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a “Thirteenth Day” of Christmas; yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. While Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord — that is, on God becoming flesh — the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. The Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth — not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6). With gold, they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matt. 2:11).

**Order of Worship**  
**Matins** *LSB 219*

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Greeting**

**Ringling of the Bell**

♪ **Opening Hymn: “Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning”**

*LSB 400*

- 1**    **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
        Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
        Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**
  
- 2**    **Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
        Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
        Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.**
  
- 3**    **Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,  
        Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
        Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**
  
- 4**    **Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
        Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;  
        Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**
  
- 5**    **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
        Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
        Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

*Stand*

*Public domain*

## Opening Versicles (Matins)

LSB 219

**P** O Lord, open my lips.

**♫C** And my mouth will declare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**♫C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**♫C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.  
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

**P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**♫C** O come, let us worship Him.

## ♫Venite

LSB 220

**C** O come, let us sing |to the Lord,  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of |our salvation.  
Let us come into His presence with thanks|giving,  
let us make a joyful noise to |Him with songs of praise.  
For the Lord is a |great God  
and a great |king above all gods.  
The deep places of the earth are |in His hand;  
the strength of the hills is |His also.  
The sea is His, for He |made it,  
and His hand |formed the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and |bow down,  
let us kneel before the |Lord, our maker.  
For He |is our God,  
and we are the people of His pasture and the |sheep of His hand.  
Glory be to the Father and |to the Son  
and to the |Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the be|ginning,  
is now, and will be for|ever. Amen.

**P** Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**♫C** O come, let us worship Him.

*Sit*

## Readings From Holy Scripture

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 60:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 3:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:1–12*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

### Children’s Message

♪ **Sermon Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

*LSB 397*

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.**
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.**

- 4 **Holy Jesus, ev’ry day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**
- 5 **In the heav’nly country bright Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King.**

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**Sermon “God’s Invitation to All”**

**Pastor Buchhorn**

**Installation of Officers**

*Stand*

**♪Te Deum Hymn: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”**

*LSB 941*

- 1 **We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,  
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.  
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,  
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:  
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”**
- 2 **The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;  
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.  
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,  
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:  
“O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!”**
- 3 **You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,  
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev’ryone:  
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin’s womb,  
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;  
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve—  
You opened heaven’s kingdom to all who would believe.**

- 4** You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,  
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.  
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day,  
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;  
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,  
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

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♫ Kyrie

LSB 227

- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**Lord's Prayer**

- 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.

**Collects**

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.  
**C** And let my cry come to You.

**Collect of the Day**

- P** Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate  
Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus  
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

**Collect for Grace**

- P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely  
brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty  
power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of  
danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be

righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

♪**C** Amen.

**Benedicamus & Benediction**

*LSB 228*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

♪**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪**C** Amen.

♪**Closing Hymn: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

*LSB 395 1,2,4 & 6*

**1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright!**

**You shine with God's own truth and light, Aglow with grace and mercy!  
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,  
Our Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!  
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!  
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,**

**And deep within our hearts now shine; There light a flame undying!  
In Your one body let us be  
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.**

**Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,  
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

**4 Almighty Father, in Your Son**

**You loved us when not yet begun Was this old earth's foundation!  
Your Son has ransomed us in love  
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.  
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever,  
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

**6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning  
For the day of Your returning!**

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#### **Acknowledgments**

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## **NEWS AND NOTES**

**WE REJOICE** with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Dick Nolte, Diana Langemeier, Walter Rauss, Daniel Greenwald, David Stuthmann, Scott Heinemann, Amber Nelson & Violet Maturey

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mike & Mindy Heithold and Todd & Angie Fredrickson

**LAST WEEK** our offerings were \$17,313.

**NURSERY:** A nursery room has been created to help parents with young children. The nursery is located in the first room west of the upstairs fellowship hall. Please feel welcome to use the room to quiet your child.

**PARENTS OF LITTLE CHILDREN:** Books which your children may enjoy are available in book bags located near the doors at the east end of the sanctuary. **Bookbags have been updated with seasonal material. Pick one up to see the fun new material.** Please return the books after the worship service. Thank you.

**ONLINE WORSHIP:** Livestream of our Sunday morning services is being offered each week. Check the church's website [www.gracewayne.com](http://www.gracewayne.com) or Facebook page for the link which should be available on Sunday morning. A recording of the service is still available to watch later in the day or week. May God bless your worship time.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** This week, we study “The Thankful One.” Encountering ten lepers on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus has mercy on them and sends them to show themselves to the priests. As they go, the lepers are healed; but only one, a Samaritan, returns to thank Jesus.

**LUTHERAN HOUR:** "Facing Rejection" -- Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
How does one deal with rejection? Push through it? Rise above it? Or start over? Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am. **Lutheran Hour sponsors are needed for 2022. The cost is \$20. Call the church office to reserve your special date.**

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS:** Today we continue our study of the Gospel of John. In John 9 we meet a man born blind. This chapter offers important insight into the question of why bad things happen. The class meets in the basement at 9:15 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** Our Christmas break is over, this week we resume our study of First Samuel on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. This action packed account of King David’s reign allows us to see how God rules through human agents. New faces are always welcome.

**NYG RUNZA FUNDRAISER:** Currently we are in the process of scheduling a new fundraiser with the Runza in town. Our Youth Group will be responsible for greeting customers, delivering orders, and cleaning tables at Runza from 5pm to 8pm on January 10th. Our group will get 15% of all proceeds during that time. Please consider coming out and supporting us while also treating yourself to a delicious meal!

**SPRING SEMESTER SUNDAY NIGHT DINNERS:** The Spring Schedule for our College Sunday Night Dinners has been posted on the church door. Please take a few seconds to consider signing up to cover one of these meals. I know that our college students truly appreciate the love! Have a wonderful day!

**AIR CONDITIONER REPLACEMENT PROJECT:** At the annual voters' meeting it was reported that the air conditioning units for the sanctuary and church basement fellowship area need replacement due to their age and various leaks. A fund for air conditioner replacement was approved. The Mission Council has received two bids for this project and has approved proceeding with the project so the work can be accomplished during the winter when the units are not utilized. The total needed for the

project is approximately \$80,000. Approximately \$17,000 has already been designated for this project. Additional gifts for this purpose are welcome and can be designated "AC replacement."

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Church offering envelopes for 2022 have been prepared and should be distributed in church mailboxes. If you did not receive a set and would like one, please contact the church office. The use of offering envelopes allows contributions to be made confidentially and allows the church to provide a receipt of contributions at year end for tax purposes. Please use only the envelopes for the current year when making contributions since envelope numbers can change year to year.

**Family Communion:** Our small group communion worship services on Saturday evening at 4:00 p.m. will resume in January. These shorter and somewhat more informal services continue to use enhanced health precautions for those with health concerns.

### **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**PASTORS:** Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.833.1071 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Erik Christensen, Associate Pastor

Pastor's phone: 979.204.0752 Email: pastorerik@gracewayne.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Lonnie Matthes (8:00) Troy Stowater (10:30)

**ACOLYTES:** Hallie Heithold & Emma Heithold (8:00)

Drew Reinhardt & Blake Kneifl (10:30)

**LAY READER:** Kathy Johnson (8:00) Mary Temme (10:30)

**GREETERS:** Lowell & Kathy Johnson (8:00)

Doug & Mary Temme (10:30)

**FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL:** Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Sara Ruwe – 402.369.2661

**LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR:** Grace Lutheran Church

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

<b>TODAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School
	9:15 am.	Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship with Officer Installation
<b>MONDAY</b>	3:30 pm.	Kinship Communion
	6:30 pm.	Elders
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00 am.	Bible Study
	5:00 pm.	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm.	Midweek
<b>SATURDAY</b>	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	8:00 am.	Worship/Communion
	9:15 am.	Bible Study
	9:15 am.	Sunday School
	10:30 am.	Worship/Communion