

## Welcome to Worship

*Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.*

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**Sunday, January 4, 2026 - 10:45 AM**

### Epiphany of Our Lord



#### Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians

**Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb:** Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Cole McCormick:** Associate Pastor  
**Nicole Kolbe:** Office Administrator  
**Brad Anderson:** Maintenance  
**Jane Reiman:** Finance Director

**Amber Hansen:** Open Door Meal Coordinator  
**Organist:** Sandy Ettesvold, Carol Madsen  
**Chancel Choir Director:** Joyce Jorgenson  
**Pianist:** Molly Bleess  
**Praise Band:** Jen Kahler and Musicians

300 S. Grant Street, Fairmont, MN 56031 | [www.gracelutheranchurch.org](http://www.gracelutheranchurch.org) | 507-238-

*Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to be on camera. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

*At Grace Lutheran, we believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality with an open table. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcome to meet Jesus at the table. Please ask your communion server if you prefer grape juice or a gluten free communion kit. The ushers will direct you to the front for communion or you may receive communion in your pew. Jesus invites all to come and be fed, forgiven, and free!*

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## **Prelude and Bell Ringing**

### **Welcome and Offering of Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Welcome to Worship!

## **Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

#### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: **Amen.**

P: 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.

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: 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.**

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

**All: Amen.**

### **Gathering Song**

### ***We 3 Kings***

Verse 1 We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain moor and mountain  
Following yonder star

Chorus O star of wonder star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading still proceeding  
Guide us to Thy perfect light

Verse 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever ceasing never  
Over us all to reign (Chorus)

Verse 3 Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising all men raising  
Worship Him God on high (Chorus)

Verse 4 Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom  
Sorrowing sighing bleeding dying  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb (Chorus)

### **Greeting**

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

**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

## Song of Praise

Bless - ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -

va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First 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 darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought 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 proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall  
be no more.

<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.

<sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

Lector: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

### **Children's Message (Sing)**

### ***Joy to the World***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Allison Cobb**

**Hymn of the Day**

***How Many Kings***

Verse 1 Follow the star to a place unexpected  
Would you believe after all we've projected  
A child in a manger  
Lowly and small the weakest of all  
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl

Just a child  
Is this who we've waited for 'cause

Chorus    How many kings stepped down from their thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for me  
And how many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Verse 2    Bringing our gifts for the newborn Savior  
All that we have whether costly or meek  
Because we believe  
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His pleasure  
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer  
Do you believe  
Is this who we've waited for

Chorus    How many kings stepped down from their thrones  
How many lords have abandoned their homes  
How many greats have become the least for me  
And how many gods have poured out their hearts  
To romance a world that is torn all apart  
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Ending    Only one did that for me

### **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 Church**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

### **Prayers of the Church**

*Prayed every Tuesday at 1pm by our Prayer Team. All are welcome to attend and pray.*

**P:** We gather here in your presence, God,

**C:** **in our need, and bringing with us the needs of the world.**

**P:** We come to you, for you come to us in Jesus,

**C:** **and you know by experience what human life is like.**

**P:** We come with our faith and with our doubts;

**C:** **we come with our hopes and with our fears.**

**P:** We come as we are, because you invite us to come;

**C:** **and you have promised never to turn us away.**

**P:** Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer pain and ill-health, with their families, friends, and those who care for them.

**C:** **May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

**P:** Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those who suffer in mind and spirit, and all who care for them.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: Loving God, we hold in your healing presence the suffering people of our world, and the places where people are experiencing division, injustice, and violence.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those struggling to overcome addiction or abuse, those supporting and working with them, and all whose suffering has distanced them from those they love.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: Loving God, we hold in your healing presence those facing grief. We also pray for those who have died.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: Loving God, we give you thanks for health restored and prayers answered. We hold in your healing presence and peace those whose needs are not known to us, those on our prayer list, and for those whose names we do not know, but who are known to you.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: May your wisdom, God, guide nurses, doctors, and those who work in every part of our health system here and around the world. We pray for our first responders and military.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

P: Provide your Spirit's guidance to envelope all who minister in your church, including our musicians, teams, and volunteers. We pray for powerful unity and oneness as the body of Christ. May the work of your church always be done in a loving and respectful way, full of your grace and truth, in accordance with our faith. We lift up our bishops: Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Regina Hassanaly, our pastors: Pastor Allison and Pastor Cole, our staff: Nicole, Brad, Jane, Amber, Travis, and our church Council.

**C: May they know the deep peace of Christ.**

**P:** God of compassion and love, we offer you all our suffering and pain. Give us strength to bear our weakness, healing even when there is no cure, peace in the midst of turmoil and love to fill the spaces in our lives.

**C:** **Glory to God, from whom all love flows, glory to Jesus, who showed his love through suffering, and glory to the Holy Spirit, who brings light to the darkest places. Amen.**

**P:** Now may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offering Song**

#### ***What Child Is This***

Verse 1    What Child is this who laid to rest  
               On Mary's lap is sleeping  
               Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
               While shepherds watch are keeping  
               This this is Christ the King  
               Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
               Haste haste to bring Him laud  
               The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 2    Why lies He in such mean estate  
               Where ox and ass are feeding  
               Good Christian fear for sinners here  
               The silent Word is pleading  
               Nails spear shall pierce Him through  
               The cross be borne for me for you  
               Hail hail the Word made flesh  
               The Babe the Son of Mary

Verse 3    So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
               Come peasant king to own Him  
               The King of kings salvation brings  
               Let loving hearts enthrone Him

Raise raise the song on high  
 The Virgin sings her lullaby  
 Joy joy for Christ is born  
 The Babe the Son of Mary

### **Offering Prayer**

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

### **Holy Communion**

*Children of all ages may receive communion or a blessing. They are also invited to take an instrument to praise God during the sending song. All are welcome at Christ's table.*

### **Lords Prayer (Sing)**

**Rachel Kurtz**

Our Father which art in heaven,  
 hallowed be, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 your will be done  
 on earth as it is, is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread and help us  
 remember 'til all people are fed  
 forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against  
 us  
 whether friend or foe  
 lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,  
 for thine is the kingdom and thine is the power and thine is the  
 glory  
 forever, forever  
 Ah... Ah... Ah... A - men

**Communion Hymn*****Light of the World***

- Verse 1      The world waits for a miracle  
                  The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
                  O come O come Emmanuel  
                  A child prays for peace on earth  
                  And she's calling out from a sea of hurt  
                  O come O come Emmanuel  
                  And can you hear the angels singing
- Chorus 1     Glory to the Light of the world  
                  Glory the Light of the world is here
- Verse 2      The drought breaks with the tears of a mother  
                  A baby's cry is the sound of love come down  
                  Come down Emmanuel  
                  He is the song for the suffering  
                  He is Messiah the Prince of peace has come  
                  He has come Emmanuel
- Chorus 2     Glory to the light of the world  
                  Glory to the light of the world  
                  Glory to the light of the world  
                  Glory to the light of the world
- Bridge        For all who wait for all who hunger  
                  For all who've prayed for all who wonder  
                  Behold your King behold Messiah  
                  Emmanuel Emmanuel
- Chorus 3     Glory to the light of the world  
                  Glory to the light of the world  
                  Glory to the light of the world  
                  Behold your King behold Messiah  
                  Emmanuel Emmanuel
- Ending        The world waits for a miracle  
                  The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
                  O come O come Emmanuel

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**All: Amen.**

### **Blessing**

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**All: Amen.**

### **Sending Song**

### ***Hark the Herald Angels Sing***

Verse 1    Hark the herald angels sing  
               Glory to the newborn King  
               Peace on earth and mercy mild  
               God and sinners reconciled  
               Joyful all ye nations rise  
               Join the triumph of the skies  
               With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
               Christ is born in Bethlehem  
               Hark the herald angels sing  
               Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2    Christ by highest heav'n adored  
               Christ the everlasting Lord  
               Late in time behold Him come  
               Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
               Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
               Hail th'incarnate Deity  
               Pleased as man with men to dwell  
               Jesus our Emmanuel  
               Hark the herald angels sing  
               Glory to the newborn King

Verse 3    Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
              Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
              Light and life to all He brings  
              Ris'n with healing in His wings  
              Mild He lays His glory by  
              Born that man no more may die  
              Born to raise the sons of earth  
              Born to give them second birth  
              Hark the herald angels sing  
              Glory to the newborn King

**Sending**

P:        Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All:    **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

