

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.

Sunday, January 4, 2026 - 8:30 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

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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!

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

Chancel Choir

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 Hymn*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

#275

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.

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

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift 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.

⁵Then 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.

⁶A 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)

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

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

#124

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "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." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'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.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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

As with Gladness Men of Old

#302

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

*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**Chancel Choir****Loaves and Fishes Offering**

Youth are invited to walk forward and place their offering into the basket. Just like the little boy who gave his 2 fish and 5 loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed thousands, the youth offering will go to The Grace Food Pantry. Adults are welcome to give a child an offering to bring up too.

Offering Hymn***Brightest and Best of the Stars (v. 1) #303*****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.

Holy Communion**Great Thanksgiving (spoken)****p.144**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung in unison)

p.144

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

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**

Lamb of God

p.112

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

Love Has Come

#292

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 Hymn*The First Noel***#300****Sending**

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

