

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Second Sunday after the Epiphany



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Please Observe Silence for Meditation

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

* Opening Hymn **On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry** LBW 36

* The Kyrie page 57

* The Hymn of Praise Glory to God page 58

* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day page 62

EQUIP

The First Lesson 1 Samuel 3:1-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm 139:1-10 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

L: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* The Holy Gospel John 1:43-51

Children's Sermon Pastor East

The Message "How Many Epiphanies?" Pastor East

Hymn of the Day **We Three Kings of Orient Are** WOV 646

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GIVE

The Offering The People of God

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RECEIVE

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* **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**

* Post-Communion Canticle *Thank the Lord* page 72

* Post-Communion Prayer

* The Benediction

SEND

* The Sending Hymn **O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!** LBW 76

* The Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand

Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

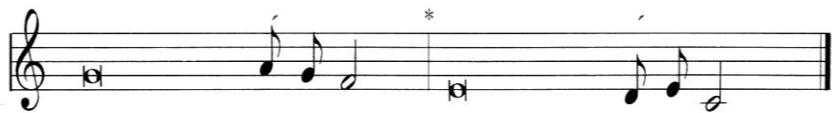
WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. The Prayer Teams will be praying with you and for your concerns during the coming week as well. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME – Last week we just observed the day we call “Epiphany.” That day has a particular meaning, but the word itself has a broader meaning. There are multiple epiphanies in the Bible: in the Gospels and in the Old Testament too. What does “epiphany” look like in your life?

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place.³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!”⁵ and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.⁶ And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.”¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.¹³ And I declare to him that I am

about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”¹⁵ Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.”¹⁷ And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.”¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him.”¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.



PSALM 139:1-9

- ¹LORD, you have searched me / out and known me;*
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts / from afar.
- ²You trace my journeys and my / resting-places*
and are acquainted with / all my ways.
- ³Indeed, there is not a word / on my lips,*
but you, O LORD, know it / altogether.
- ⁴You press upon me behind / and before*
and lay your / hand upon me.
- ⁵Such knowledge is too wonder- / ful for me;*
it is so high that I cannot at- / tain to it.
- ⁶Where can I go then / from your Spirit?*
Where can I flee / from your presence?
- ⁷If I climb up to heaven, / you are there;*
if I make the grave my bed, you / are there also.
- ⁸If I take the wings / of the morning*
and dwell in the uttermost parts / of the sea,
- ⁹even there your / hand will lead me*
and your right hand / hold me fast.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹² “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 7:29-35; Mark 1:14-20. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO PASTOR BRACK EAST who is leading us in worship today!

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Kevin Adams, Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Lula Ingle, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, all of those who are suffering from the widespread sicknesses, Alyssa, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, Peggy Klutz, Bill Little, Family of Myrtle Robinson, Lily Rose, Bill Little, Ryan McMullen, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow, January 15, at 6:00 p.m.** All Board members are urged to attend.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING will be held on **Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 pm.**

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON will be held on **Wednesday, January 17 at noon** in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together and enjoy fellowship, good food and bingo! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

THE ECCCM FOOD ASK for the month of **January** is **canned soup or broth**. ECCCM thanks the disciples of Grace for helping to keep the food pantry stocked!

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart and notify the church office to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this gift.

*“LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.”*
Psalm 139:1

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

14 – Cindy Watson
17 – Danielle Bumgardner
Tony Isenhour
18 – Bethany Bivens

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A – Worship Celebration

Monday: 6:00P – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

Tuesday: 6:00P – Stephen Ministry Training

Wednesday: 12:00P – Grace Prayer Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Next Sunday: **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A – Worship Celebration

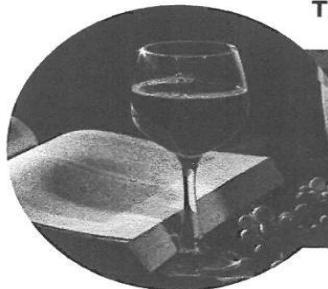
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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Ministers..... | The People of Grace Lutheran Church |
| Pastor | |
| Organist..... | Sandi Tallant |
| Administrative Assistant | Pam Tallent |
| Leadership Board President | Tim Eckard |
| Youth Leader | Stormy Shull |
| Lector | |
| Communion Assistants..... | Rick and Cindy Bivens |
| Ushers | Joe and Lynette Momier |
| Altar Preparation..... | Herb and Libby Travis |
| Offering Tabulators | Todd Childers and Jason Yoder |
| Custodian..... | Chris Abernethy |



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

The Second Sunday after Epiphany | January 14, 2024



JOHN 2:1-11

"This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory." Vs.11

The gospel of John bookends Jesus' story with signs, here in the second chapter and again at the end of the twentieth chapter. Well, maybe not quite bookends, for there is still the twenty-first chapter. What John does is that he encloses nineteen chapters of his gospel within a pair of signs... a pair of signs which result in a definite outcome: faith. Here in the second chapter after the miracle of water to wine at the wedding feast, John tells us, "And his disciples believed in him" (vs. 11). Toward the conclusion of chapter twenty, John tells us of the resurrected Jesus' encounter with his disciple Thomas for the first time after the crucifixion. In that encounter, all the doubts held by Thomas as to the identity of his risen Lord were relieved when Jesus addressed him and invited him to touch the reality of his wounded hands, feet, and side. Confronted by these signs of death and resurrection, Thomas confessed belief.

But then, Jesus speaks a curious turn of phrase. Rather than applaud Thomas for his coming to faith and worshipping him, Jesus poses a question and then a beatitude to Thomas. The question asks, "Have you believed because you have seen me?" (Jn. 20:29). The

beatitude simply states, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (Jn. 20:29).

Evidently, Jesus is not a fan of signs. He emphasizes hearing over seeing. When confronting the religious leaders of his day, Jesus responded to their demand for a sign from him by saying, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah" (Mt. 12:39). Jesus delivers the sign of Jonah in his death and resurrection where he was three days in the tomb as Jonah was three days in the belly of the whale. To us who persist as an evil and adulterous generation, we may covet signs of divine manifestation but what we get is the risen Word of God, Jesus Christ.

Table Talk: Discuss the tension between visible signs and the audible word.

Pray: Father, place your Word, Jesus, in my ears. Amen



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