

The Day of Epiphany

January 5, 2025 A.D.

10:30 AM



FOR WE HAVE SEEN
HIS STAR IN THE EAST
AND HAVE COME
TO WORSHIP HIM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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The Day of Epiphany



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. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980)234-8848.

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

PRELUDE *Please observe silence for meditation.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh,
the Lord and giver of life. **C: Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another as we confess our sins in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession.

P: God of glory, God of peace,

C: we confess that we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us.

We cling to worldly things rather than sharing the gifts of this earth.

We trust ourselves above all. Save your people, O God and free us to live boldly in the light of the grace and truth of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in Jesus Christ. Therefore, I announce the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

* **GATHERING HYMN:** **As with Gladness Men of Old** **LBW 82**

* **GREETING:** Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: 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.**

The congregation may be seated.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

PSALM 72:1-4, 10-12

¹Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the king's son;

²that 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.

⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,

rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

¹⁰May 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.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,

the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

The congregation is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The First Noel" (vs. 3 & 5)

LBW56

3. And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,

Full reverently upon the knee,
And offered there, in His presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense. *Refrain*

* **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You O Christ!**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: **"Following the Light of Christmas into the New Year"** **Pastor Doug**
The congregation is invited to stand.

* **HYMN OF THE DAY:** **We Three Kings of Orient Are** **WOV 646**

* **THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the

Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition.

P: Lord in your mercy, **C:** Hear our prayer.

*** SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

*Worshippers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ" or similar words.
The assembly may be seated.*

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN:

What Feast of Love (vs. 1 & 3)

WOV 701

1 What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

3 What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?

This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

* **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE** **LBW PG. 68**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And, 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 AND HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** **LBW PG. 69**

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER** **LBW PG. 70-71**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The gifts of God for the people of God! **C: Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION SONG **Lamb of God** **LBW PG. 72**

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear** **LBW 65**

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: God of mercy and grace, we thank you for feeding us with the sacrament of Christ's body and blood —that which strengthens us in faith and assures us of new life now and in eternity. As we wait and watch for the return of the Messiah in these last days, continue to feed us with the life-giving bread and the cup of salvation, in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

* **SENDING HYMN:** **Arise Your Light Has Come** **LBW 652**

* **DISMISSAL:**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **C: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn 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, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Patsy Bumgardner, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers,

Dennis D'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Rebecca Speagle Jackson, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Alyssa McCary, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Marc Sigmon, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Monica Thomas, Kelly Wesson, United States of America, 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.

Family and Friends of: Elizabeth Grace Hefner

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

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FRED T. FOARD SENIOR LUNCHEON will be held at Ebenezer UMC on Wednesday, January 8th at 12:00pm. All are invited!

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, January 11th at 9:00am** at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Great food and great fellowship! Please come and bring a friend!

THE UNHANGING OF THE GREENS will take place on Saturday, **January 11th at 11:00am after the Prayer Breakfast.** This includes taking down the tree and sanctuary decorations. We need your muscles and appreciate your help!

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

9 – Lula Ingle

COMING UP AT GRACE

Today:	FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	Wednesday:	12:00pm Senior Lunch at Ebenezer UMC
	9:15am – Sunday School	Friday:	Church Office Closed
	10:30am - Worship Celebration	Saturday:	9:00am Grace Breakfast @ Four Peas 11:00 Unhanging of the Greens

- ❖ The Ministers: The People of Grace
- ❖ Pastor: Doug Hefner
- ❖ Administrative Assistant: Kristi Tucker
- ❖ Leadership Board President: Tim Eckard
- ❖ Ushers: James Hall & David Wilfong
- ❖ Altar Preparation: Herb & Libby Travis
- ❖ Communion Assistants: Herb & Libby Travis
- ❖ Offering Tabulators: Alan Shull & Sheila Drum
- ❖ Organist: Sandi Tallant
- ❖ Lector: Stormy Shull
- ❖ Youth Leader: Stormy Shull
- ❖ Custodian: Chris Abernathy