

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025 A.D.

10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Third Sunday after 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: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING HYMN**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LBW 559

* **GREETING**

P: 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**

P: Merciful Father, you have provided for your people the gift of Holy Scripture through which your salvation in Jesus Christ is made known. Grant that we may study, learn, meditate upon your word that we may live according to your will following the way of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is in his most holy name we pray.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they

heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our LORD. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

PSALM 19:7-14

⁷The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

⁸**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can tell how often he offends?
cleans me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹²Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of

them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The congregation is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God's Word is Our Great Heritage

LBW 239

GOSPEL: Luke 4:16-30

P: The holy gospel according to John

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁶{Jesus} came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable

in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON “Mission Possible: Jesus’ Mission is Ours”

Pastor Doug

The congregation is invited to stand.

- * **HYMN OF THE DAY:** **How Firm a Foundation** **LBW 507**
- * **THE APOSTLES' CREED**
- * **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** **LBW PG. 65**
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.

Worshipers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ” or similar words.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards

LBW PG. 66

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Compassionate God, you receive us again into your arms and invite us to be nourished as your dear children at your table of grace. We pray that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ Jesus, our life would be transformed and strengthened so that we might shine with the light of Christ as we share ourselves and your gifts with all the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

C: Amen

- * **DIALOGUE AND PREFACE** **LBW PG. 68**
- * **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** **LBW PG. 69**
- * **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** **LBW PG. 70**
- * **LORD'S PRAYER** **LBW PG. 71**

* **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

LBW PG. 72

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN

O Living Bread from Heaven

LBW 197

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with the heavenly food of your body and blood. As we go now, nourished in faith and love, be present with us today, tomorrow and forever so that we will tell and live-out the story of your never-ending love in the precious and powerful name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

* **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

He Leadeth Me

LBW 501

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Sent and anointed by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of God's love in Christ in word and deed, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, 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, Nancy Willis

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., 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.

Friends and Family of: Irene Heavner

COMING UP AT GRACE

Today: Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:15am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

5:00pm – Prayer for Christian Unity Service

Refreshments to Follow in FH

Monday: 6:00pm - Leadership Ministry Board

Friday: Church Office Closed

❖ The Ministers: The People of Grace

❖ Pastor: Doug Hefner

❖ Organist: Sandi Tallant

❖ Administrative Assistant: Kristi Tucker

❖ Leadership Board President: Tim Eckard

❖ Ushers: James Hall & David Wilfong

❖ Altar Preparation: Herb & Libby Travis

❖ Lector: Stormy Shull

❖ Communion Assistants: Herb & Libby Travis

❖ Youth Leader: Stormy Shull

❖ Tabulators: Todd Childers & Sheila Drum

❖ Custodian: Chris Abernethy