

For the SON OF MAN  
CAME  
to SEEK  
and SAVE  
the LOST.





Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

**Church Campus:** 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503 .290.6316– call /text)

**School Campus:** 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)

**Preschool:** 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 – call /text)

## Celebration of the Festival of Epiphany

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Grace ~ “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

*Grace ~ “These are written that you may believe...”*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

*Grace ~ “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

**Song:**

**We Three Kings**

Nathan Drake – The Soul Felt Its Worth

Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

The Congregation is asked to listen to the first verse and then join in the chorus and the remaining verses.

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!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.**

**Chorus**

**Frankincense to offer have I  
Incense owns a Deity nigh  
Prayer and praising, all men raising  
Worship Him, God most high!**

**Chorus**

**Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.**

**Chorus**

**Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice!  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia  
Earth to Heaven replies.**

**Chorus**

## INVOCATION

- M: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
- C: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father– to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Rev 1:4-6)**

### Epiphany Dialogue:

- M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light
- C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Is.9:2)**
- M: For unto us a Child is born,
- C: Unto us a Son is given;**
- M: And the government will be upon His shoulder.
- C: And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is.9:6)**
- M: Arise! Shine! Your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- C: Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you.**
- M: Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- C: Look up. Look all around and see! All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.**
- M: Your sons will come from far away, and people will carry your daughters on their side. (Isaiah 60:1-4)
- C: This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. (1 John 5:14)**

### Confession:

- M: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)
- C: Indeed, because of sin, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. (2 Corinthians 1:9-10)**

**Absolution:**

M: Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

M: Then you will look and be radiant. Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

**C: For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you. The wealth of the nations will come to you.**

M: Caravans of camels will cover your land, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All those from Sheba will come.

**C: They will carry gold and incense, and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD. (Isaiah 60:5-6)**

Hymn: CW21 Blue #376

Rise Up and Shine

***Rise Up and Shine! Your Light Has Come;  
God's Glory Breaks Like Dawn.  
For Though The Earth Be Cloaked In Night  
And Gloom Shrouds Everyone,  
Yet Over You The Lord Will Rise,  
With Glory Gleaming Clear,  
Till Nations Turn To Seek Your Light  
And Humbled Kings Draw Near.***

***Fling Wide Your Gates, Both Day And Night;  
No More Keep Watch Or Guard.  
You Will Be Called God's Holy Hill,  
The City Of The Lord.  
No Sound Of Strife Will Plague Your Land,  
Nor Harm Besiege Your Ways;  
"Salvation" Will You Name Your Walls,  
And All Your Portals "Praise."***

**No More Will You Implore The Sun  
To Shed By Day Its Light,  
Nor Will You Need The Changeful Moon  
To Glisten Through The Night.  
Your Glory Then Will Be Your God,  
Whose Light Will Never Cease.  
Rise Up And Shine! Your Light Has Come  
To Give You Joy And Peace**

**Prayer of the Day:**

**M:** Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**THE WORD**

**Old Testament:**

Daniel 2: 46-49; 3 (selected verses)

<sup>48</sup>Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. <sup>49</sup>Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. <sup>4</sup>Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: <sup>5</sup>As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."

<sup>8</sup>At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, <sup>12</sup>But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up."

(But) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, trusted in him (to rescued his servants) and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #372 (1)

As with Gladness Men of Old

*As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold,  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by thee.*

**The Verse of the Day:**

Luke 19:9-10

Alleluia! Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”  
Alleluia!

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #372 (2)

As with Gladness Men of Old

*As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy seat.*

**Gospel Lesson:**

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #372 (3)

As with Gladness Men of Old

*As they offered gifts most rare  
At thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.*

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

**Hymn:** CW Red #85

O God from God, O Light from Light

*O God from God, O Light from Light,  
O Prince of Peace and King of kings,  
To you in heaven's glory bright  
The song of praise forever rings.  
To him who sits upon the throne,  
The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory he has won,  
All thanks and praise! Amen, Amen.*



*Deep in the prophets' sacred page,  
Grand in the poets' winged word,  
Slowly, in type, from age to age  
The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night  
Rang out the song, "Good will to men!"  
Sung by heav'n's hosts in splendor bright,  
Re-echoed now, "Good will!" Amen.*

*That life of truth, those deeds of love,  
That death of pain mid hate and scorn –  
These all are past, and now above He reigns,  
our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!  
So sang the angel hosts again.  
Lift up your heads --your King awaits.  
We lift them up, Amen, Amen.*

*Sing to the Lord a mighty song;  
Sing to his name, his glories tell!  
Sing, heav'nly hosts, your praise prolong,  
And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain!  
Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb enthroned to reign,  
Glory and pow'r! Amen, Amen.*

**The Sermon:**

**Matthew 2:1-2, 11-12**

#### THANKSGIVING

**The Offering:**

*An opportunity to give online can also be used at  
[Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://paypal.me/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:*



## Offertory Music:

Brightest and Best / Star in The East  
American folk tune from "Southern Harmony", 1835  
Reginald Heber, 1783-1826; Rose Ensemble 2014  
Music used with permission CCLI License 11209822

Hail the blest morn, see the great mediator  
Down from the regions of glory descend.  
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,  
Lo! for his guard the bright angels attend.

*Chorus:*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid.  
Star in the east, our horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer was laid.*

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,  
Odors of Eden and offerings divine,  
Gems from the mountain and pearls from the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

*Chorus:*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid.  
Star in the east, our horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer was laid.*

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts we his favor secure;  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
Nearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Chorus:*

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thy aid.  
Star in the east, our horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant redeemer was laid.*

## The Prayer of the Church & The 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Preface:

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who has called us to be his own that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #347 (1)

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story;  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

### The Words of Institution:

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread: and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #347 (4)

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

### **The Distribution:**

*Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy. If you would like to discuss "close" communion or any other spiritual matter with the pastor, please indicate this on the Friendship Register.*

### **The Distribution Hymn:**

RED #79 HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR

### **The Blessing and Benediction:**

**Hymn:** CW21 Blue #347 (2-3)

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing –  
Yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Magi, leave your contemplations;  
Brighter visions beam afar.  
Seek the great desire of nations;  
You have seen the Savior's star.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*



**Grace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH