



EPIPHANY



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.

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Celebration of the Festival of Epiphany

January 9th, 2022

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:

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.**

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 #347 (1, 4, 3)

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.*

*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.*

*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.*

Prayer of the Day

- M: Let us pray. 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 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.

THE WORD

Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.

His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³ Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ This one will be their peace.

HYMN: CW21 #333 (1-3)

***O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.***

***For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.***

***How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.***

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶ Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷ but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Verse of the Day: Numbers 24:17a

Alleluia! I see him, but not now. I behold him, but not near. star will come out of Jacob. A scepter will rise up out of Israel. Alleluia!

HYMN: CW21 #917 (1)

***God himself is present --Let us now adore him
And with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple --All within keep silence,
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone On his throne
Is our God and Savior;
Praise his name forever!***

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 ² 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.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When 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. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“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.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He 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.”

⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

HYMN: CW21 #372 (Vs 1-3):

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.*

*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.*

*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 Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12

HYMN: CW21 #953 (Vs 1,4,5):

*Holy God, we praise your name;
Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim;
All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain,
Everlasting is your reign.*

*You are King of Glory, Christ;
Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed,
On the cross our sins did carry;
First to break the bars of death,
You have opened heav'n to faith.*

*Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name you;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim you,
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.*

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Thanksgiving

The Offering

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



The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
They 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. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HYMN: CW21 #370 (1):

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

***How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.***

***O David's Son of Jacob's race, My Bridegroom and my King of grace,
For you my heart is pining.***

***Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious - Prince of graces,
Filling all the heav'nly places!***

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

C: **By his incarnation, he became one with us.**
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

M: Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. Amen.

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 #370 (2): How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary's Son,

The highborn King of ages!

In your blest body let me be, E'en as the branch is in the tree,

Your life my life supplying.

Sighing, Crying, For the savor Of your favor, Resting never

Till I rest in you forever.

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 HYMNS

“Now Sing We Now Rejoice” – Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus

“Christ Begins” CW21 #385 – Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus

“All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord” -- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus

“To Thee My Heart I Offer” - Martin Luther College Choir

THE BLESSING & BENEDICTION

HYMN: CW21 #370 (5):

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of music ring

In God's high praises blended.

Christ will be with me all the way, Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day

Till trav'ling days are ended.

Sing out, Ring out, Triumph glorious, O victorious, Chosen nation;

Praise the God of your salvation!



Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH