

WELCOME TO GRACE: We rejoice over your presence this day as we gather in the Name and in the worship of our Lord. If you are a GUEST with us today, we hope you feel welcome in our church family and invite you to worship with us again. If you are interested in membership at Grace or want to know more about our church and our faith, please indicate your interest on the ATTENDANCE FORM in the pew.

Grace's Mission

- ✝ Sharing God's Grace
 - ✝ Living His Word
 - ✝ Making Disciples

Grace Lutheran Church is one of more than six thousand congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We Believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the sole source for all Christian teaching and practice. *II Timothy 3:16*

We Believe "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

We Believe "by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We Believe our relationship with everyone is based upon Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Child Care We care about your children. We encourage parents with small children to help them participate in our worship. We ask you to have your children go to the restroom and get a drink before the service, and refrain from leaving during worship, unless there is an emergency. We have available a cry room equipped with sound located at the back of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins with activities are available.

Hearing Impaired For those who need assistance, please ask an usher for a wireless hearing aid. They are easy to use.

 **WORSHIP FOLDER** 
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 22, 2023
“THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY”

AS WE GATHER

When Jesus appeared on the scene of human history, His coming was like the light of a new day. Isaiah had prophesied a day would come filled with joy as at the harvest or when victors divide spoils. But daylight also reveals problems covered by darkness, like the divisions at the Church in Corinth, as Paul writes. Jesus’ light not only reveals, but it also forgives, heals, and enlivens. People brought the sick and demon-possessed to our Lord, and the first four disciples jumped at the opportunity to follow Him. What ills shall we bring to worship today for resolution? Sins requiring forgiveness, gloom needing joy, divisions seeking reconciliation? Jesus came into human history to die and rise for us; today He comes through Word and Sacrament in grace and mercy to meet our deepest needs. Let us rejoice in the light of God’s forgiveness, mercy, and love.

[If your health limits you, please don’t feel required to stand during the worship service.]



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

ENTRANCE HYMN

(please stand for last stanza)

LSB 412

“The People That in Darkness Sat”



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

**5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**

**6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

1 Corinthians 1:18; Psalm 27:14

- P** The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
C **but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**
P Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
C **wait for the LORD!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Matthew 4:17; Philippians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 1:18

- P** St. Matthew writes that Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Let us respond by confessing our sins and asking our Lord’s forgiveness.
C **Heavenly Father, we confess our sins to You. We are too much a part of this fallen world. Because our citizenship is in heaven, invade our thoughts, words, and deeds by Your gracious power. Help us to live each day as pilgrims heading to the eternal promised land. Turn us from our sinful direction to follow our Savior’s gracious lead, walking in ways pleasing to You for Jesus’ sake. Amen.**
P “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” Be assured that through Jesus’ blood bought rescue, you are already citizens in the Kingdom of heaven. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

LSB 849

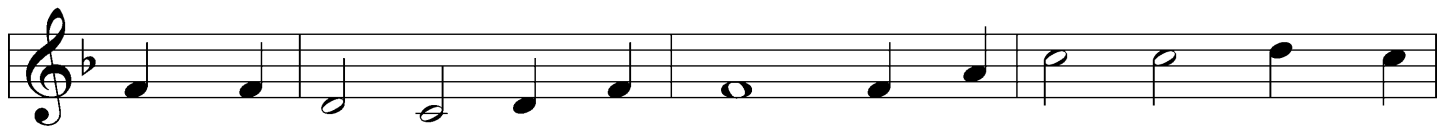
“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”



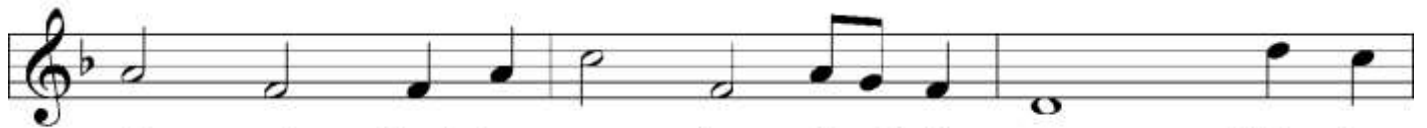
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



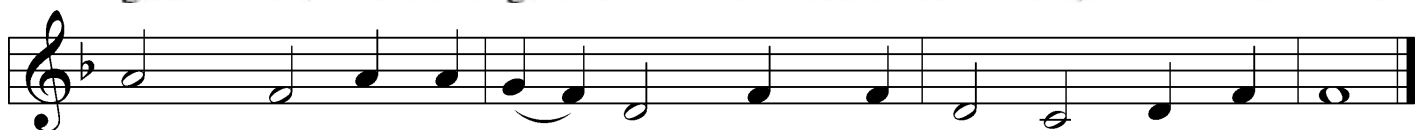
at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon us in our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 9:1-4

(Light and joy will replace gloom and sadness.)

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 27:1-14; ANTIPHON V. 1

- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
C **The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**
- P** When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
C **my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**
- P** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
C **though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**
- P** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
C **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**
- P** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**
- P** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
C **I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**
- P** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
C **be gracious to me and answer me!**
- P** You have said, "Seek my face."
C **My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."**
- P** Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,
C **O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**
- P** For my father and my mother have forsaken me,
C **but the LORD will take me in.**
- P** Teach me your way, O LORD,
C **and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.**
- P** Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;
C **for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.**
- P** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD
C **in the land of the living!**

- P** Wait for the LORD;
- C** **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**
- A** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

EPISTLE

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

(There should not be divisions in the one Church.)

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

(Tradition dictates that our eyes follow the cross. Please remain standing until the cross has been returned to its original position. The Gospel is read from the center of the church to symbolize the Gospel in our midst.)

VERSE AND ALLELUIA

P Alleluia. From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Alleluia. *Matthew 4:17*



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:12-25

(In Galilee, Jesus calls the first four disciples.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C Glory be to you, O Lord.

¹²Now when [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 839

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, En - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of Your grace The souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray That they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold; Re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more Such grace with



those who sit - in night; Let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; En - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way! Let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to Your fold. U - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore And end - less praise to



hear Your voice And in Your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds Some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed In You find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part; Con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
You be giv'n By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

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SERMON TEXT:

ISAIAH 9:1-4

SERMON TITLE: *"OUT OF DEEP DARKNESS"*

(please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

WE OFFER OUR FIRST FRUITS

(Financial support of Grace Lutheran Church is considered a privilege of membership. Although all offerings are welcome, we do not expect them from our visitors.)

VOLUNTARY

JOSEPH MOLINA, TRUMPET

“How Lovely Shines the Morning Star”

INSTALLATION OF ALTAR GUILD OFFICERS

(please stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with,

P Let us pray to the Lord,

G Lord, have mercy.

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.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*
- C** Amen.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DOOR OFFERING MINISTRY

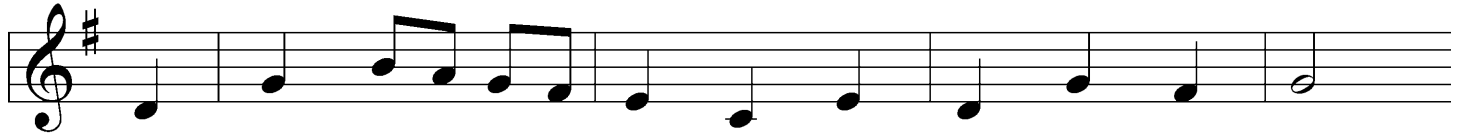
HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 643

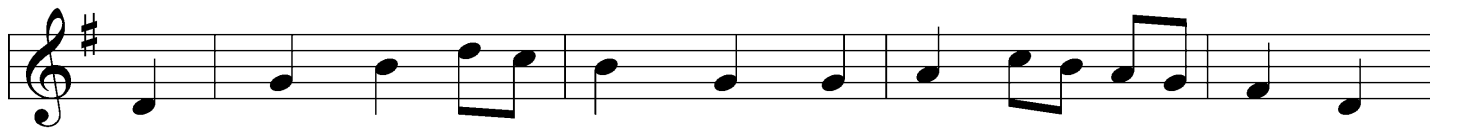
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”



1 Sent forth by God’s bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,



The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev-’ry-day life we will face.



The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,



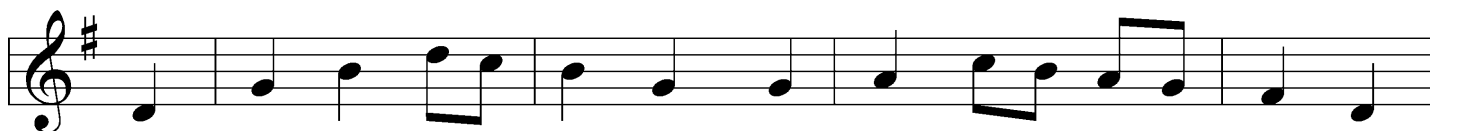
The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
U-nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing



To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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POSTLUDE

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|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Presiding Minister | Reverend Robert Pase |
| Organist..... | Richelle Gengler |
| Trumpet..... | Joseph Molina |
| Acolyte..... | Sawyer Dalager |
| Elders | Dennis Wehmeyer / Will Krueger |
| Ushers | Josh Jones |
| | Brent Keesee |
| | Jerry Damm |
| Teller..... | Jerry Damm |
| Altar Guild | Kelli Jones / Mary Morgan |
| Nursery | Allison Gray |

GRACE PRAYS

We continue to pray for the following:

- Protection for our armed forces and strength for their families and Lt. Aaron Bell and his family.
- Wisdom for our nation's leaders.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Pastor Pase.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Ms. Carol.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- Our Stephen Ministers.
- Our ECP.

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

- ❖ Charles Colgan, BJ Haley, Mary Ann Johnston, Royce Parsley, Melinda Richmond, Eleen Schulze, David Stock, & Holly Walker.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ❖ Chuck Wolfmueller (Thomas' dad) had a PICC line place on 12/23 and started a new chemo regimen on 12/27. Next treatment was 1/10.
- ❖ Piper Evans (Diane Wood's 17 yr. old granddaughter) is in Lubbock's Covenant Children's Hospital with stomach pain.
- ❖ Marietta McWhorter (Brandon Mitchell's Meemaw) is in acute care hospital in Abilene and awaiting shoulder reconstruction surgery.
- ❖ Jason Stephenson (Margie Norton's cousin's husband) had chemo port placed on 1/10 & consultation and pain pump on 1/12. Pain keeps him from sleeping, so he's getting meds to help with that.
- ❖ Irene Greenhaw fell and has a break to her fibula. She's in Manor Park Rehab.
- ❖ Family members of our ECP teacher, Anita Cavazos were severely injured in a rollover accident on 1/17 in SE Texas.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

- ❖ Toni Granat right knee surgery on 1/17 went well and is now home.

PRAYERS OF MOURNING

- ❖ Aunt Patty (Sandra Parsley's 91 yr. old aunt) died on 1/2.
- ❖ Bill Braden died on 1/5.
- ❖ Aunt of our ECP teacher, Anita Cavazos died on 1/17 in a rollover accident in SE Texas.



The flowers this morning have been provided to the glory of God by

Jim Raven

In celebration of my daughter Tanya's birthday on the 26th.

Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Midland, Texas 79701-2998

Church Office – (432) 697-3221

ECP Office – (432) 694-3063

www.GraceLutheranMidland.org

office@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org

Our Ministry Staff

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Reverend Robert Pase, Senior Pastor | 694-9253 or 425-9531 |
| Carol Massie, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Life..... | 638-4143 |
| Mrs. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director..... | 894-7027 |
| Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator | 626-484-9723 |
| Lea Keesee, Parish Nurse..... | 634-2580 |

**Please see Grace in Action for the week's calendar and other
Important information regarding the ministry of our congregation!**