

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



*January 29, 2023*

*10:00am*

# GATHERING

**Prelude**

Symphonie Gothique: II-Andante Sostenuto

Charles-Marie Widor

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess**

**that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Hymn**

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! (verses 1, 2, & 6)

#873

## Greeting

### This is the Feast

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

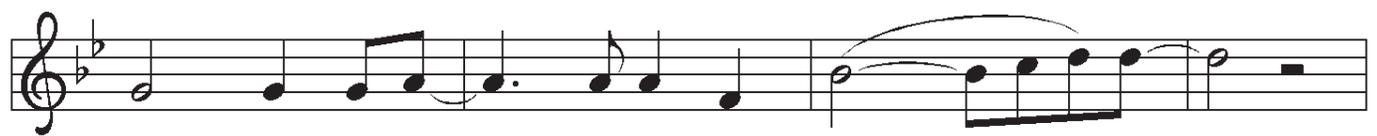


hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. *Final refrain*

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

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# WORD

## Children Message

### First Reading: Micah 6:1–8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

<sup>18</sup>The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. <sup>19</sup>It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent.* <sup>20</sup>Where are the wise? Where are the legal experts? Where are today’s debaters? Hasn’t God made the wisdom of the world foolish? <sup>21</sup>In God’s wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn’t come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. <sup>22</sup>Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. <sup>24</sup>But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. <sup>25</sup>This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. <sup>29</sup>So no human being can brag in God's presence. <sup>30</sup>It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us. This means that he made us righteous and holy, and he delivered us. <sup>31</sup>This is consistent with what was written: *The one who brags should brag in the Lord!*

Word of God, Word of Life.

## Thanks be to God!

Anthem

The Gift of Love

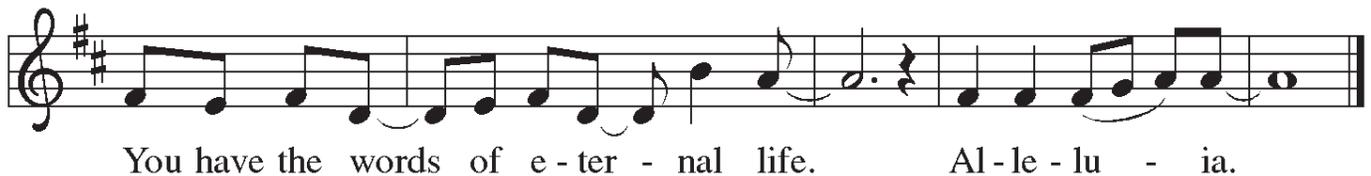
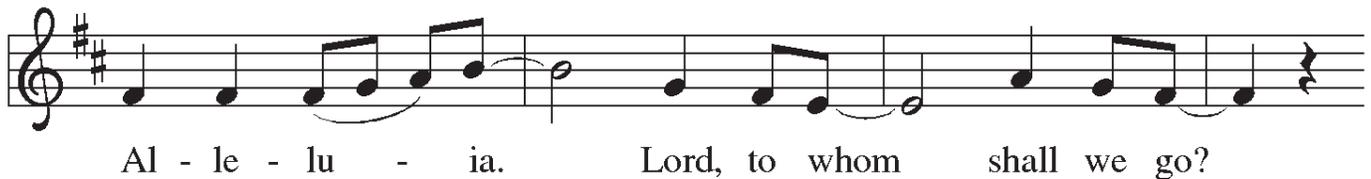
Hal Hopson

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love; my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control.  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed.  
By this we worship and are freed.  
Amen.

Though I may give all I possess  
and striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

## Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel for today is from Matthew the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn** Let Streams of Living Justice #710

**Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church**

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.  
**Amen.**

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MEAL

**Offering** Jesus, the Very Thought of You

Emma Lou Diemer

## Offertory Prayer

Liberating God,

you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

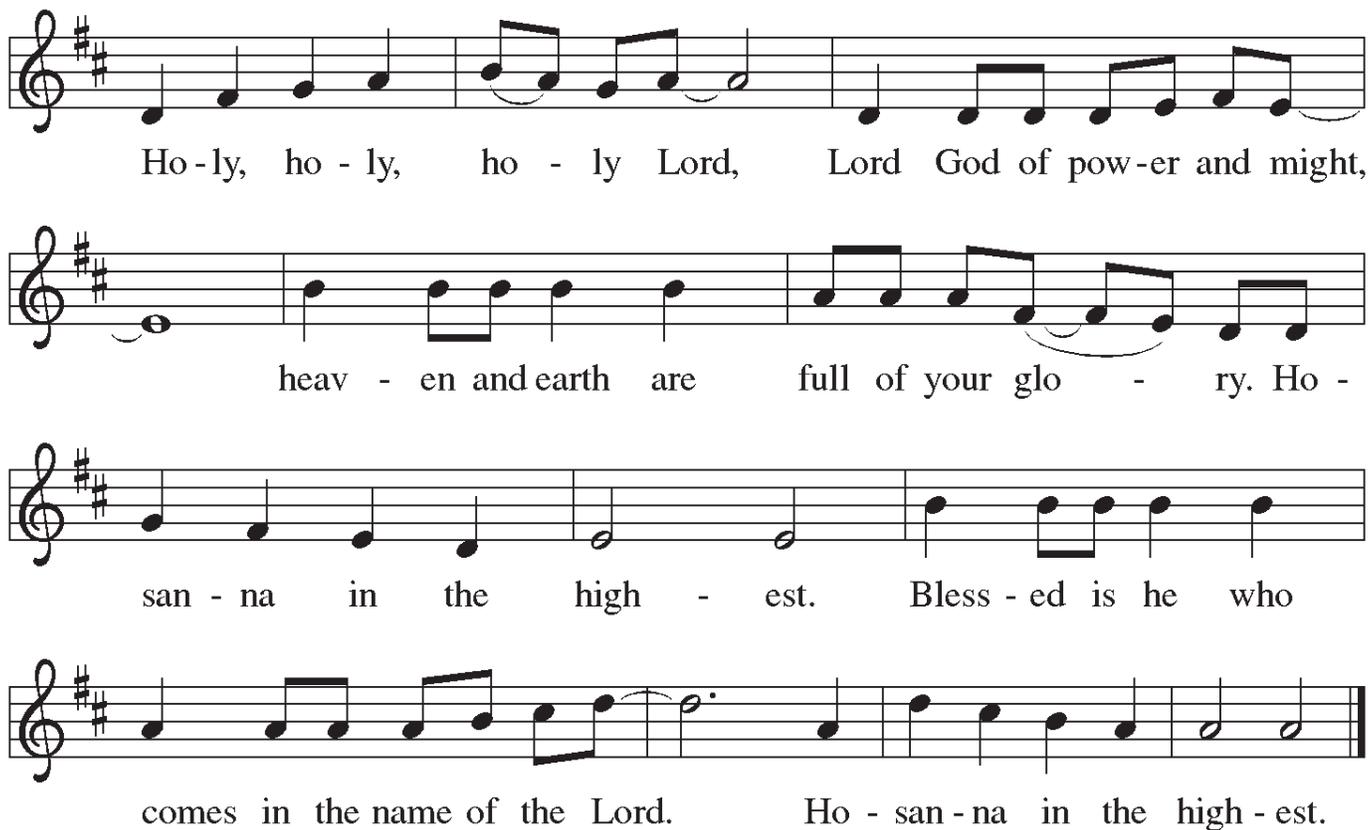
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

## 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.

## Communion

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Prayer After Communion

Holy One,  
we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice,  
love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## **Blessing**

## **Sending Hymn**

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

#551

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Concerto in a minor: First Movement

J. S. Bach

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**Minister:** Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Assisting Minister:** Stacey Geist

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

**Reader:** Annie and Quinn Ram

## Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY (29<sup>th</sup>)

Coffee Hour – 9am  
Worship – 10 am  
“How Does Liturgy  
Mean?” – 11am

### TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am

### WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am  
Text Study – 12pm  
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

### THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

### SUNDAY (5<sup>th</sup>)

Coffee Hour – 9am  
Worship – 10am

Other Groups using the building this week: Quakers, Northwest Synod, Scouts, Randall Park Neighborhood Association, Equid Dance



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## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will take place on February 12 after the worship service.

## Volunteers Needed!

Needed, volunteers to greet those who are scheduled to have their photographs taken on February 7 and 8.

Tuesday, February 7

- 1:45 pm to 5:15 pm, two people
- 5 pm to 8:30 pm, one person

Wednesday, February 8

- 1:45 pm to 5:15 pm, two people
- 5 pm to 8:30 pm, one person

Please contact the office during the week or Anita on Sunday. Thank you!

### *Important!*

If you are unable to make either photography day, you can send in your own photos to be included in the directory. Please email your pictures to the church office ([info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)) before February 9th for them to be included.

## Beacon House Suppers In February

Grace Lutheran members will be responsible for providing the evening meal for four nights in February. The dates are Sunday, Feb. 12, Monday, Feb. 13, Tuesday, Feb. 14 and Wednesday, Feb. 15.

The sign up sheets will be available on the Lighthouse in the Narthex. The menus for each meal have been decided and you may choose to provide the main entree or the side dishes for the meal. Recipes are provided if you wish for the entree for that evening. We will have the number of family members present for each meal by Feb. 10.

Call Barb Radke 715-835-3440 for any questions you may have.

## Crafters are Back

The crafters are meeting again. Anyone who would like to join them is welcome. They meet in the crafting room on the third floor every Wednesday at 10am.

## Sunday School

Sunday school will take place during the service right after the Children's Message on the following days.

- February 5
- February 19

## Nine-to-Dine

Life and Growth Ministry will start the sign-up for Nine-to-Dine after Easter, with get-togethers in late Spring or early Summer, when the weather will be nicer. We need host/hostesses to offer their home for a meal. The guests will share in bringing the food.

If you are willing to host, please let Barb Piper know (in person or 715-529-6900 or [bpiper2007@yahoo.com](mailto:bpiper2007@yahoo.com)).

## Offering Envelopes

Unfortunately the company we ordered our offering envelopes from is experiencing a paper shortage and will not be able to fulfill our order until the end of January. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Feel free to use any envelope you have to send us your offerings. If you attend worship, there will be a stack of envelopes in the back of the church you can use for your contributions.

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)

If you missed one of our services, you can find them on the "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page. If you would like to follow along with a bulletin they can be found on our website (<https://grace-church.org/>) under the "Our Ministry" section.

Services are also broadcast on the following platforms:

### Televised Service

Sunday 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Thursday 1:30pm Cable Channel 993 (ChipVal CTV Pub Ed)

### Radio Service

Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713