

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



January 7, 2024
10:00am

GATHERING

Prelude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Dietrich Buxtehude

Epiphany Gospel: Matthew 2:1–12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Opening Hymn

Jesus, the Light of the World



1	Hark! the	her - ald	an - gels	sing,	Je-sus, the Light of the	world;
2	Joy - ful,	all you	na - tions,	rise;	Je-sus, the Light of the	world;
3	Christ, by	high - est	heav'n	a - dored,	Je-sus, the Light of the	world;
4	Hail the	heav'n-born	Prince	of peace!	Je-sus, the Light of the	world;



"Glo - ry	to the	new-born	king,"	Je-sus, the Light of the	world.
join	the tri - umph	of the	skies;	Je-sus, the Light of the	world.
Christ, the	ev - er - last - ing	Lord!		Je-sus, the Light of the	world.
Hail	the Sun	of	right-teous - ness!	Je-sus, the Light of the	world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain

Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

Apostolic Greeting

Prayer of the Day

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

The First Reading: Genesis 1:1–5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem *We Three Kings*

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

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 for ever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign

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

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Myrrh is mine
It's bitter perfume breathes
A life of gathering gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying
Sealed in the stone cold tomb

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Heaven to earth replies

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

The Second Reading: Acts 19:1–7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel for today comes from Mark 1:4–11

Glory to you, O Lord.

And so it was, John baptizing in the desert and proclaiming a baptism of turning around for the pardon of sins. And the whole Judean countryside and all the Jerusalemites were going out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan River, publicly admitting their sins. And John was clothed in camel's hair with a leather band around his hips, and he was eating cave crickets and wild honey. And he was proclaiming, saying, "The one coming after me is stronger than I am; I'm not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of whose sandals. I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with Holy Spirit."

And it was so—in those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And rising up from the water, he saw the heavens being ripped open and the spirit like a dove coming down onto him. And there was a voice from the heavens, "You are my beloved son with you I am so pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn *Borning Cry*

#732

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized Dietrich Buxtehude

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

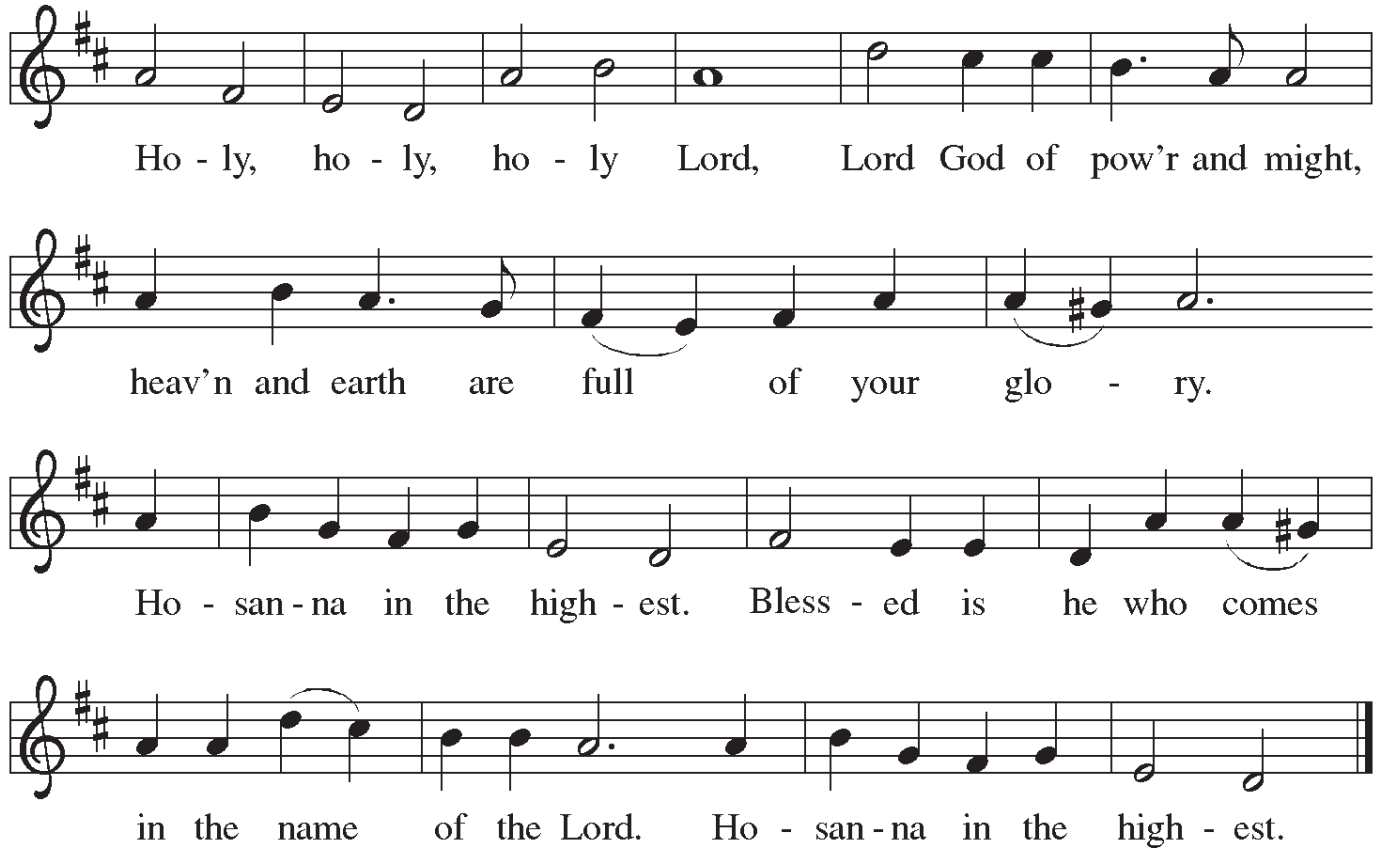
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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'r and might,
heav'n 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 (sing)

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 debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.

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

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, † bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright! (verses 1 & 3)

#308

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Max Drischner

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones **Organist:** Elaine Mann
Assisting Minister: Paul Lokken **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi
Reader: Dorie Schwellenbach



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2024-1-7

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (7th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am
Strong Bodies – 1pm

THURSDAY

Strong Bodies – 1pm
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

MONDAY

Elizabeth Circle – 10am

WEDNESDAY

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

SATURDAY

Church (Un)
decorating – 10am

SUNDAY (14th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, ADRC

Annual Meeting and Ministry Reports

Grace Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will be held on February 4th at 11am after the regular worship service. Please plan on attending so we can have a voting quorum.

If your ministry still needs to turn in their report for the annual meeting packet, please do so as soon as possible.

NEW DATE!



in Concert Jan 13! 7pm

Fundraiser for JONAH, at Trinity Lutheran Church

Tickets \$30 at:
jonahjustice.org



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Northern Spirit Radio



This event would not have been possible without you!

Church (Un)Decorating

The holiday season is over and Visual Ministries is looking for volunteers to help take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. They will be meeting at 10am on Saturday, January 13. Everyone is welcome to come and help, no prior experience required!

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Returning Members

We quietly but joyfully welcome Tom and Carol Gallatin back to membership at Grace Lutheran. We are thrilled to have you with us again. If anyone else is seeking membership at Grace, please talk to Pastor Phil.



Brrr, It's Cold Outside!

The Mission Outreach Ministry is coordinating a hot breakfast to be served on Thursday, January 25 for our brothers and sisters staying at Sojourner House. We are looking for volunteers to make egg bake casseroles and to provide juice and bread, peanut butter, and jelly. Here are the items that we need:

- 6 Egg Bake Casseroles: Recipes may be picked up at the Lighthouse in the narthex or call Deb or Carla for the recipe.

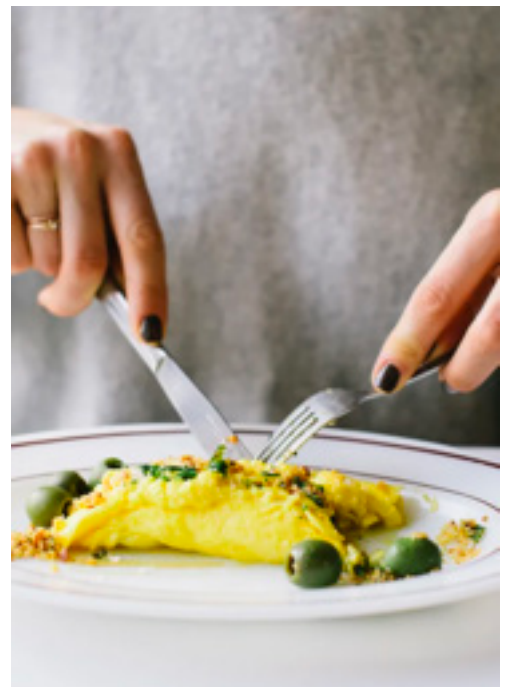
These are very simple recipes requiring few ingredients; 2 of the recipes will be meatless. Please make in a 9x13 disposable pan. Bake the casserole and cover with aluminum foil. The casseroles will be reheated by the staff.

- 6 Cartons of Orange juice
- 8 Loaves of White Bread (Aldi's have great deals on bread)
- 3 Jars Peanut Butter (Creamy only)
- 3 Jars Jelly

Please deliver these items to Sojourner House on Wednesday, January 24 between 2:00–4:00. Madison, the coordinator will be there to collect the. If you are unable to deliver, please call Deb and she will arrange delivery to Sojourner House for you.

Call Deb Heath (715–590–3566) or Carla Reppert–Lokken (715–225–2574) with any questions

Let's help our friends at Sojourner House start their day with a hot breakfast!



Sunday School

Classes will be held during the worship service following the children's message on the following dates:

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| • January 7 | • March 3 | • May 5 |
| • January 21 | • March 17 | • May 19 |
| • February 4 | • April 7 | |
| • February 18 | • April 21 | |

LIVE, WORD FOR WORD
PERFORMANCE OF THE

GOSPEL OF MARK

FROM MEMORY

1 TO 3 PM
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 W. GRAND AVE EAU CLAIRE, WI

FREEWILL OFFERING

FUNDS RAISED SUPPORT
THE SYNOD ENDOWMENT
FUND



Noisy Offering: Make a Joyful Noise

Time to ring in the new year by bringing your coins for the Noisy Offering on January 21. The children of Grace will gather loose change from our pockets and purses during our worship service. Of course paper money and checks are welcome in any season! Our special offering will go toward World Central Kitchen (WCK).

WCK is the world's foremost provider of emergency meals, serving meals worldwide in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. WCK has provided more than 300 million fresh and nourishing meals since it was founded in 2010. From the fires in Maui to the recent tornadoes in Tennessee to Ukraine and to Gaza and Israel, WCK has provided meals in over 45 countries around the world. Charity Navigator give it a 4 star, 100% rating.



Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to “Our Ministry.”

Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the “Our Ministry.”

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713