

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



January 28, 2024
10:00am

GATHERING

Prelude

Symphony IV: Andante Cantabile

Charles-Marie Widor

Land Acknowledgment and Invocation

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

We gather on the traditional homelands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota peoples.

We acknowledge that through our Maker we are all related.

The roads that brought us here today were places where Indigenous people walked and lived on this sacred land, and still do today.

We gather to honor the Creator, and all creation—human, animal, plant, water, wind, earth, and sky—that belong to God.

Opening Hymn Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#886

Apostolic Greeting

Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



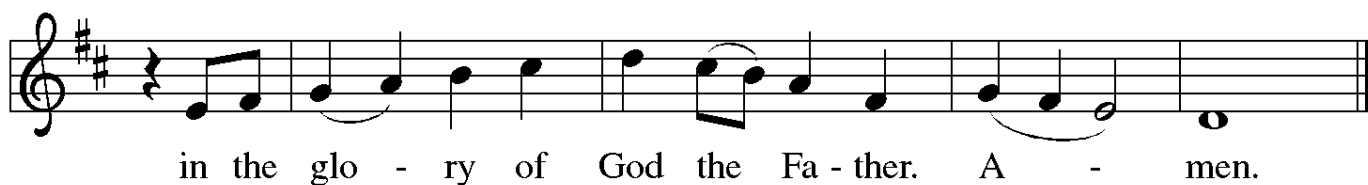
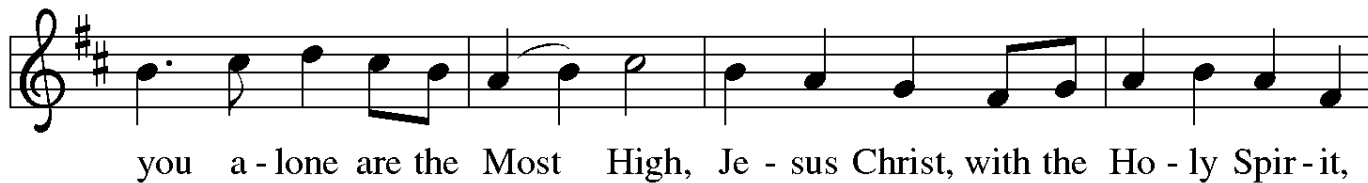
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Temple Talk Jodi Jewell

Children's Message

The first reading is from Deuteronomy, Chapter 18

Moses said: ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

The second reading is from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 8

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!



Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel for today comes from Mark 1:21–28

Glory to you, O Lord.

And they entered into Capernaum. And immediately on the Sabbath he enters into the synagogue and began teaching. And people were astonished by his teaching, 'cause he was teaching them as one having authority, yet not like the legal experts.

And immediately in their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit. And it screamed out, saying, "What is it with you and us, Jesus Nazarene? Did you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the holy one of God." And Jesus rebuked it, saying, "Quiet, and get out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing the man and crying in a loud cry, came out of him. And everyone was so astonished that they were arguing among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching? With authority! He gives orders even to the unclean spirits and they obey him." And the report about him immediately went out everywhere, into the whole surrounding countryside of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn When Memory Fades

#792

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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Wayne Wold

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 and Healing Prayers

Today we will have prayers for healing during the communion service. Two stations will be available where you can request personal or general prayers after receiving the communion elements. 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.

Organ Meditation How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Otto Olsson

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

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

1 When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer
2 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for
3 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may
4 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our

with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you

breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.
live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.
clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.
in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue in G Major

J. S. Bach



2024-1-28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge–Jones **Organist:** Elaine Mann

Assisting Minister: Pete Lokken **Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

Reader: Norma Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (28th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Strong Bodies – 1pm

THURSDAY

Strong Bodies – 1pm

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am

Text Study – 12pm

Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

SUNDAY (4th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am

Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Jonah, Scouts, ECWiT, ADRC, Theater Guild, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

Annual Meeting

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 of fifty (50) members.

Sunday School

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

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

Phat Tuesday Talent Show

Diana would like to host the second annual Phat Tuesday Talent Show in the Parlors on 02/13/24 to highlight the various, as yet undiscovered, talents of our congregation! Before making it official, we need to assess interest from the congregation. Please either email Diana at gracechoirec@gmail.com or call Andrew in the office and pass on the message to let her know if you're interested in either attending or sharing a talent. Let her know by February 1st at the latest.

Perhaps you enjoy playing the ukelele or the singing saw? Do you juggle, do Elvis impressions, recite poetry, like to do improv, sing or dance? We'd love to highlight

your talents! Even the simplest hobbies and talents are encouraged to participate. You could even set up an amateur art show or display of photography. This event would also provide an opportunity for fellowship before we enter Lent and the time to share a warm evening potluck meal. This event could also serve as a pre-Valentine's Day Date Night! If enough of you show interest, Diana might also be convinced to make her lasagna for everyone, so please make sure to share your feedback as soon as possible before February 1.

Thank you! Family Choir

The family choir will be rehearsing and singing during the worship service on the following dates:

- Rehearsal: January 28;
- Rehearsal: March 3 & 17
- Rehearsal: March 31; April February 11 & 18
- Sing: March 31 (Easter service)
- Sing: May 12 & 19
- Sing: May 26 (Music Sunday)

World Relief

Many of you may have seen the media reports about refugees who will be settling in our area through the work of World Relief. The voices that are best informed about the process have often

not been included in the reporting. Pastor Phil and the education ministry have invited Jodi Jewell, World Relief's Community Engagement Specialist, to help us understand the process from a social and biblical perspective. She will also indicate ways we might consider assisting in this work. Please join us for a forum on January 28th after the worship service in the Parable Chapel to learn more about this ministry welcoming people into our area.



Randy Adams Performing at Lake Wissota

The Adams/LeBrun Duo will be performing at The Edge on Lake Wissota on both February 2nd and 3rd. What a great opportunity for both dinner and a show! On Friday evening, the performance will start at 9:00, just after the dinner seating has ended (stay as long as you like). The Saturday performance is in the afternoon from 1:00-4:00 as part of the Lake Wissota Trailblazers snowmobile club fundraiser, with dinner seating after the show. If you can't make one, come to the other! Better yet, come to both! The Duo is composed of percussionist John LeBrun, and Randy Adams on vocals and guitars; we cover a wide variety of genres and time periods, plus our own compositions. It will be great to see you there!



Noisy Offering

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Noisy Offering this past Sunday. We were able to raise a total of \$420.90 for 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 gives it a 4 star, 100% rating.



Serving At Beacon House

Grace members' help is needed to provide evening meals at the homeless shelter for families. Our dates of commitment are Feb. 15, 16, and 17. There are currently 5 adult parents and 11 children (10 below the age of 6) living at Beacon House. The permanent staff provide the professional work to help these families secure housing. We, as a sponsoring church, provide evening meals 4 weeks of the year.

The sign up sheets are posted on the Lighthouse in the Narthex. Direct questions to Barb Radke 715-835-3440.

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