

**Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 12, 2023—8:30am**



Grace Lutheran Church

521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
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www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/she)

Our Mission Statement:

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

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Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.
+ Please stand as you are able.

+ Gathering +

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

“More Love, More Power” arr. Phillip Keveren

+ Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Thus says our God: “The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.” God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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+ Gathering Song

“Cry of My Heart”

Refrain: It is the cry of my heart to follow You.
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.
It is the cry of my heart to follow all of the
days of my life.

Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord, so I can walk in Your truth.
Teach me Your holy ways, O Lord, and make me wholly devoted
to You.

Open my eyes so I can see the wonderful things that You do.
Open my heart up more and more, and make me wholly
devoted to You.

All of the days of my life, all of the days of my life!

Terry Butler © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)

+ Prayer of the Day

ELW p.24

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are
weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us
to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us
grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. **Amen.**

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+Word+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

+ Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.171



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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+ Gospel Reading

Matthew 5: 21-37

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

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³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Young at Heart Message & Sermon

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

+ Song of the Day

"Make Me an Instrument"

Refrain: Make me an instrument of your love.
Let me be a channel from above.
Make me an instrument of your love,
an instrument of your love.

When a friend is in need of an open heart, let me be there, oh
let me be there.

When a friend is lost with nowhere to go, let me be there.

When someone is hungry, when someone is cold, let me be
there, oh let me be there.

When someone needs help to carry their load, let me be there.

If someone should wonder is God still alive, let me be there, oh
let me be there.

If someone should wonder does God really care, let me be
there.

Karol Baer Larry Olson © 1989 Dakota Road Music

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+ Apostles Creed

ELW p.105

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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.**

* universal

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+ Prayers of Intercession sung refrain: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"
Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Refrain: **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart; I want to see You, I want to see You.**

Paul Baloché © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways.

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world.

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope.

Refrain

Nurture all in need, especially for those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*). Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you.

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

Refrain

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+ Peace

+Meal+

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Thank you for supporting the mission of the church as you are able! Electronic donations can be made at

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611.

*Checks can be also be sent to church:
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*



+ Offering Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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

ELW p.172

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.

+ Thanksgiving at the Table

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+ Lord's Prayer

ELW p.173

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

+ Invitation to Communion

Come and taste the joy of God!

Notes about Communion Distribution at Grace

When we're gathered around the table, there is enough food, drink, blessing, space and time for all to share in Holy Communion! GLC practices Eucharistic hospitality since we trust that God welcomes all who come to the table where Christ is both host and meal.

Wine (red) and grape juice (white) are distributed in individual cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

If you prefer to stay in the pew, there are prepackaged kits (wine, juice, and gluten free options) available at the sanctuary doors. If you prefer not to receive the wafer and wine/grape juice, you may kneel or stand at the rail with arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Song

ELW #341

Now Behold the Lamb



1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who
2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why
3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.
you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.
cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

Text: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970

Music: NOW BEHOLD THE LAMB, Kirk Franklin

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+ Sending +

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

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+ Sending Song

“Step By Step”

Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

Oh God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

And I will follow you all of my days,

And I will follow you all of my days,

And step by step you'll lead me,

And I will follow you all of my days.

David (Beaker) Strasser

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+ Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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