

**Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
January 29, 2023—8:30am**



Grace Lutheran Church

521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325
757-420-4704

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.

4th Sunday after Epiphany—January 29, 2023—8:30am

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

“O God, Beyond Praising” *arr. Marianne Kim*

+ 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

“The Water of Change”

Refrain: I've been washed by the water.
I've been cleansed by the sea.
I've been touched by the river of eternity.
Though I don't understand it,
I have never been the same.
I can't turn back the water, the water of change.

The rivers they run, the rivers they roll away,
The voice of life whispers ev'ryday.
At the heart of it all ev'ryone wants to be free,
Free to live, free to love for eternity.

I wonder aloud where in the world I might be
Had the cross not been shown to me.
It's opened my heart, made me look outside and see
I can no longer live for only me.

Larry Olson © 1989 Dakota Road Music

+ Prayer of the Day

ELW p.23

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.**

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+Word+

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

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

¹Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, 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. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For 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. ⁵O 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.” ⁶“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? ⁷Will 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?” ⁸He 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?

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

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

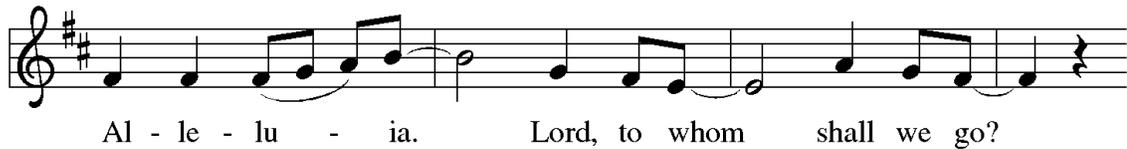
²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

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+ Gospel Acclamation

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+ Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

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

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice 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.**

Young at Heart Message & Sermon

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

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+ Song of the Day

“Do Justice”

Racing around, chasing idols, unfulfilled, empty vessels.
World on the edge, out of control, will we survive, God only
knows.

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with our God, with our God.

People broken, falling pieces, dignity lost, loving ceases.
Hopeless eyes, lonely faces, yearning hearts, hurting places.

Deadly hunger, desperate crying, wounded living, children
dying.
Nails in the flesh, piercing fear, why can't we see Christ hanging
here?

Julie Hennies Larry Olson © 1991 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: “Lord, Be Glorified”

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

Refrain: **In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.**
 In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

Bob Kilpatrick © 1978 The Lorenz Corp. (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice.

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made.

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers.

Refrain

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need, especially for those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*).

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always.

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

Refrain

+ Peace

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+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

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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.

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Communion Song

“Agnus Dei”

Alleluia, Alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Alleluia, Alleluia, for the Lord God Almighty reigns. Alleluia.

Holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the lamb; Worthy is the Lamb.
You are holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen.

Michael W. Smith, b. 1958 © 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music

+ 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

“Beauty for Brokenness”

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair. Lord, in the suffering this is our prayer. Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace. Sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray. Melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain. Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills, work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills. Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak, voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak.

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear, cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share. Peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to green, Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams, plundered and poisoned, our future, our dreams. Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed. Make us content with the things that we need.

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame, until your justice burns brightly again. Until the nations learn of your ways, seek your salvation, and bring you their praise.

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music

+ Dismissal

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

Postlude

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