

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



*Everyone is Welcome!
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,
Let us rejoice together!*

January 15, 2023

LBW # 495

We carry the “light” out into the world! Depart to serve!



Today's Readings

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

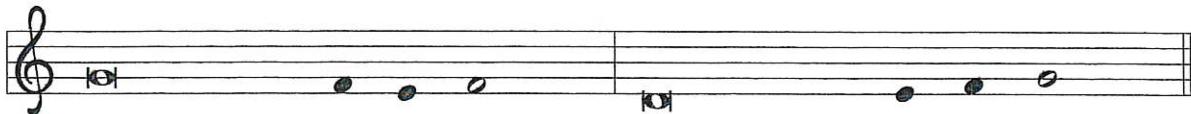
Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far
away!
The LORD called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he
named me.
²He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
³And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,
and my reward with my God."
⁵And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be
his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered
to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the
LORD,
and my God has become my
strength—
⁶he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be
my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end
of the earth."
⁷Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy
One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the
nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate
themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has
chosen you."

Psalm

Psalm 40:1-11; tone 6



I waited patiently up-¹ on the LORD,
who stooped to me
and ¹heard my cry.
²The LORD lifted me
out of the desolate pit,
out of the ¹miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff,
making my ¹footing sure.

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise ¹to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust ¹in the LORD.
⁴Happy are they who trust ¹in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies
or to those who ¹follow lies.

continued

⁵Great are the wonders you have done,
O LORD my God!
In your plans for us,
none can be com-¹pared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known
and tell them!
But they are more than ¹I can count.
⁶Sacrifice and offering
you do ¹not desire;
you have opened my ears:
burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have ¹not required.
⁷And so I said, "Here I ¹am; I come.
In the scroll of the book
it is writ-¹ten of me:
⁸"I love to do your will, ¹O my God;
your law is ¹deep within me."

⁹I proclaimed righteousness
in the ¹great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips,
O ¹LORD, you know.
¹⁰I have not hidden your righteousness
in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness
and ¹your deliverance;
I have not concealed
your steadfast love and truth
from the ¹great assembly.
¹¹You are the LORD;
do not withhold your compas-¹sion
from me;
may your steadfast love
and your truth
continually ¹keep me safe.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 [not printed]

Gospel

John 1:29-42

[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed,

"Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.

We pray always for . . .

*Grace Bentzinger, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels,
Tucker Drake, Eric Fass, Kathy Helgren, Eugene Rosenthal, &
Haleigh Werner*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

*Anna, Vanessa, Diana & Meshack, orphans we are sponsoring
in Tanzania.*

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's
box in the south office. You may email the church office
grace68329@gmail.com*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613 (cell)***

Today 1/15/23

Joint Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m.

No Sunday School

**Grace Lutheran Annual Meeting to follow worship
Meal to follow in the basement**

Tuesday 1/17/23

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

Sharing Covered Dish Luncheon

Wednesday 1/18/23

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 1/22/23

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Meeting to follow
worship & Meal to follow in the Church Basement**

Council is providing shredded pork, buns, condiments and drinks, and our members have brought donations of a salad or dessert to share with us.

We look forward to this time of fellowship with you.

Next Sunday, January 22nd the Faith Lutheran Luther League will be hosting a Soup Dinner at the Talmage Community Building from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.

Chicken Noodle or Chili Soup, Sandwiches,
Desserts, & Drink

Everyone is Invited! Freewill donation

We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. The cost for each child this year will be \$450 and includes tuition and board. Last year we raised \$1,800.00 - enough to host 4 children and have raised \$1,252.00 so far. Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations can be given until the end of January. Sheridan will be sending us information in January.

The ELCW Yearbooks are available to pick up.

The offering Envelopes have been delayed at the warehouse – due to lack of employees, they will be coming.

If you do not wish to receive a box of envelopes, please let Joyce Roesener or Diane Wilken know.

Grace Lutheran Family,

Thank you so very much for donating supplies for my First Graders and me during this Christmas Season! You provided us with wonderful books that go along with units I teach. You also gave us a building kit which we will use to build bridges when we get to that story in reading class. They can also use them during inside recess times. I appreciate the paper plates, plastic forks, and snacks. I purchase many of these supplies throughout the year, and it's wonderful to have your help. I can't thank you enough! What a wonderful Christmas you gave us!

Robyn Faris and First Graders