

# Grace Lutheran Church Welcomes You!

*The*  **Blessed**  
*Beattitudes*  **are:**

the poor in spirit    the meek    the  
they that mourn    merciful  
they which do hunger & thirst after righteousness  
**the pure in heart**

they which    the peacemakers  
are persecuted for righteousness' sake

*Rejoice!* & be exceeding **GLAD**,  
for **GREAT** is  
your reward in *Heaven*.

~Matthew 5~

*By Grace you have been saved!*  
“We have decided to follow Jesus and  
There's no turning back!”

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

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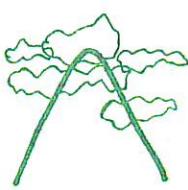
***We pray always for . . .***

*Grace Bentzinger, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass,*

*Kathy Helgren, Eugene Rosenthal & Haleigh Werner*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

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



# Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## First Reading

**Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the **LORD** says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,

and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, 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.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For 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.

<sup>5</sup>O 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**."

<sup>6</sup>"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?

<sup>7</sup>Will the **LORD** be pleased with thousands of rams,

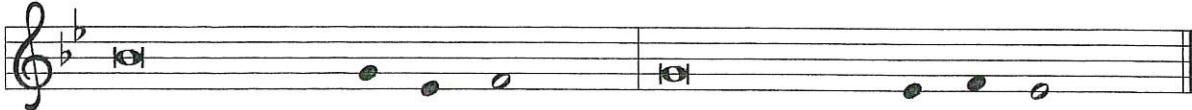
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>He 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?

## Psalm

**Psalm 15; tone 7**



LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life

and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,

who speak the truth

<sup>1</sup> from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;

they do not cast discredit

up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup> fear the **LORD**.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup> back their word.

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,

nor do they take bribes

a- <sup>1</sup> gain against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.<sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where 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? <sup>21</sup>For 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. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For

God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider 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. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

## Gospel

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

## Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## TODAY'S READINGS January 29, 2023

Volume 54, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]; Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20.

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

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the south office. Church office email [grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

**Today 1/29/23**

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

**Tuesday 1/31/23**

**Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day**

**Wednesday 2/1/23**

*Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.*

**Next Sunday 2/5/23**

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*Please be sure to sign up for a couple of Sundays of Worship Duty – sign up sheet is at the back of the church.*

*Noisy coin offering will be collected Today.  
All loose change will be designated for  
Tanzanian Scholarships.*

*The ELCW Yearbooks are available to pick up.*

*TODAY, January 29<sup>th</sup> there will be a Freewill Soup Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at St. John's UCC in Syracuse.*

*This luncheon will benefit Eric Fass and his continued recovery from a TBI sustained on July 24, 2021*

*We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. I just received information from Sheridan that the cost for each child this year will be \$475 and includes tuition and board. Last year we raised enough to host 4 children. To date we have received **\$1,777.00**, so need \$123.00 to host 4 children again this year. 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.*

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Save the Date!** The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee met and selected Sunday, June 23, 2024 to commemorate Immanuel Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran churches merging to form Grace Lutheran Church. Bishop Johnson and Pastor Helgren will preside over the 10:00 a.m. service. Watch the Tower Echoes for more information.