

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*



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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn "As with Gladness Men of Old" LBW Hymn # 82

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Kyrie Page 57

Hymn of Praise "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" See Insert

Prayer of the Day See Insert

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Children's message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day LBW Hymn # 191

"Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God"

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Offering

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Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn "God, Whose Almighty Word" LBW Hymn # 400

We carry the "light" out into the world! Depart to serve!

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 . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Becky Knake, Haleigh Werner & Will Yank

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Anna, Vanessa, Meshack & Evance, 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 1/7/24

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

"Say Cheese!" Pictures being taken in the Basement.

Monday 1/8/24

Bible Study – 2:00 p.m. NOTE NEW TIME

Tuesday 1/9/24

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

Wednesday 1/10/24

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 1/13/24

ELCW Winter Retreat @ St. Paul's, Grand Island – 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday 1/14/24

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Senior Members, if you wish to share a meal with our Kids for Christ on Wednesday, January 10th, please call the church @ 402-864-4201, by tomorrow noon.

ELCW Yearbooks and Offering Envelopes are ready to pick up at the back of the church.

Tanzanian Orphans information will be sent to all sponsors in January! The Cost per scholarship will be \$475.

Hello Tanzania Sponsors,

Pastor Sarah from Sheridan and our Sarah & Carl Purcell are going to Tanzania with the Synod from January 21st to February 6th. If you would like to send a letter to the students that you sponsor, please do so and have them turned into Sarah Purcell by January 14th, so that she is able to take them with when she goes on her trip!

Say Cheese!

*The Worship, Evangelism, and Fellowship Committee would like to take pictures of our church members starting **Today**, January 7 after church. Pictures will be taken during fellowship in front of the stage, with the curtain drawn. Pictures will then be displayed on the south bulletin board in the basement. If you can't make church on January 7th, we will take pictures again in February for those who missed it.*



Today's Readings

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

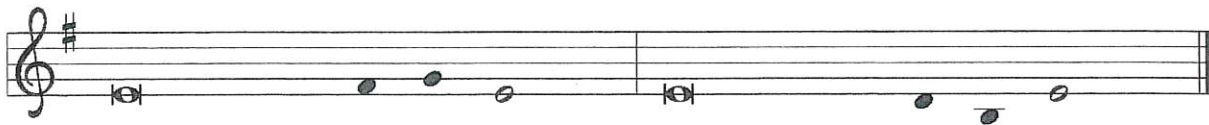
Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm

Psalm 29; tone 8



Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD
glo-¹ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD
the glory ¹ due God's name;
worship the LORD
in the beau-¹ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD
is upon the waters;
the God of ¹ glory thunders;
the LORD is upon
the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD
is a pow-¹erful voice;
the voice of the LORD
is a ¹ voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD
breaks the ¹ cedar trees;

the LORD
breaks the ce-¹dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon
skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon
like a ¹ young wild ox.

⁷The voice ¹ of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD
¹ shakes the wilderness;
the LORD
shakes the wilder-¹ness
of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD
makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the ¹ forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD
all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

continued

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned
a-¹bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned
as king for-¹ evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength
¹to your people;
give them, O LORD,
the bless-¹ings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said,

"John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop

down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

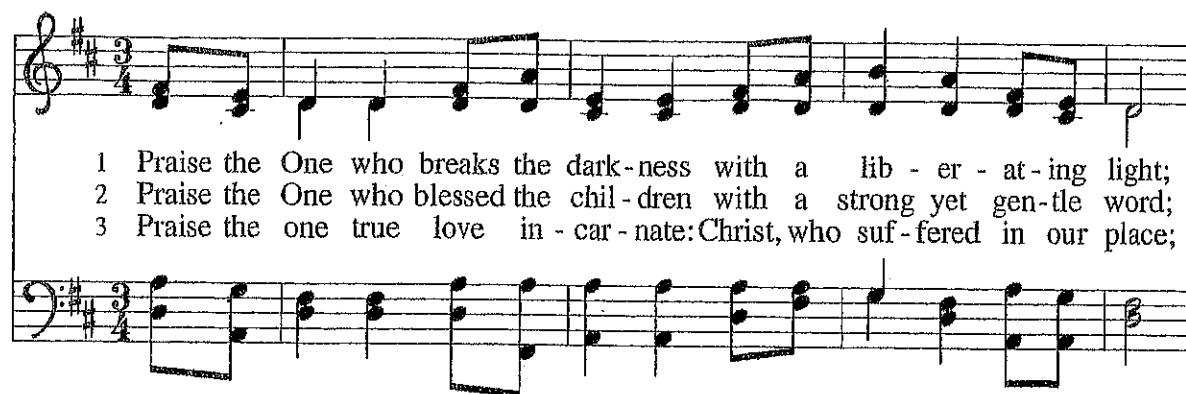
TODAY'S READINGS January 7, 2024

Volume 55, Number 1

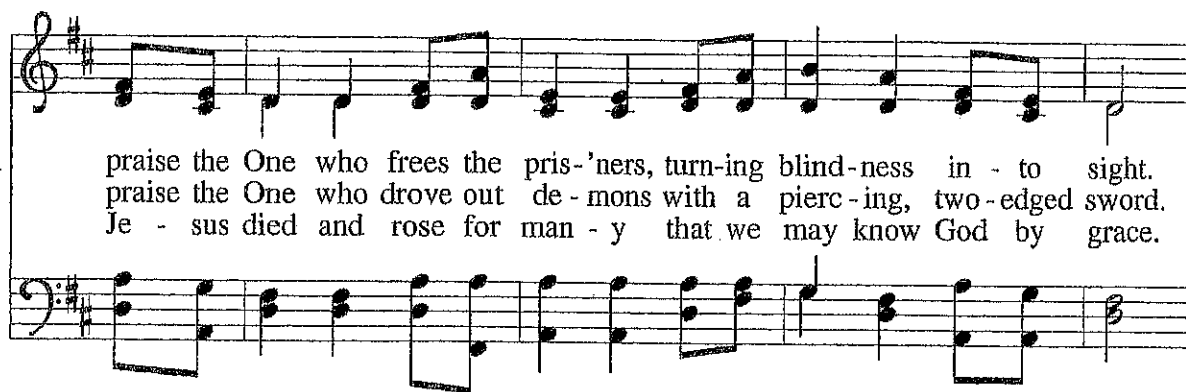
Next Sunday's Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at augsburgfortress.org.
Lectionary year B.

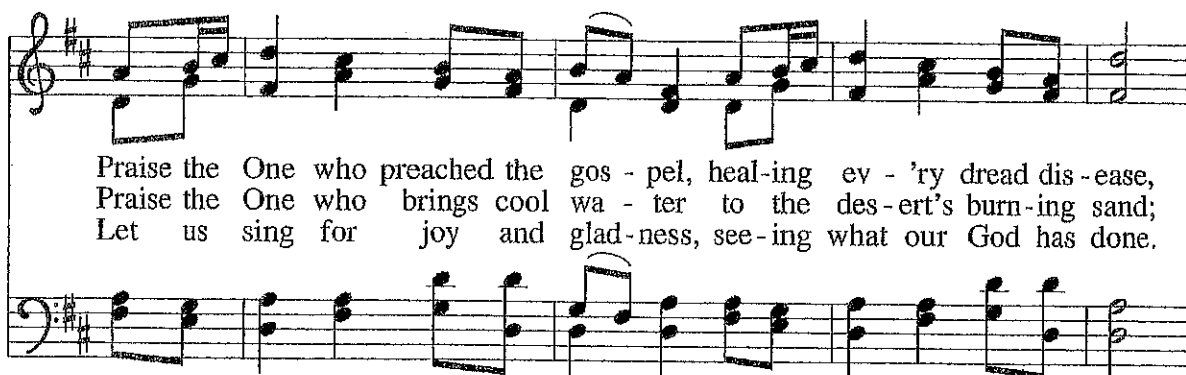
843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness [H]



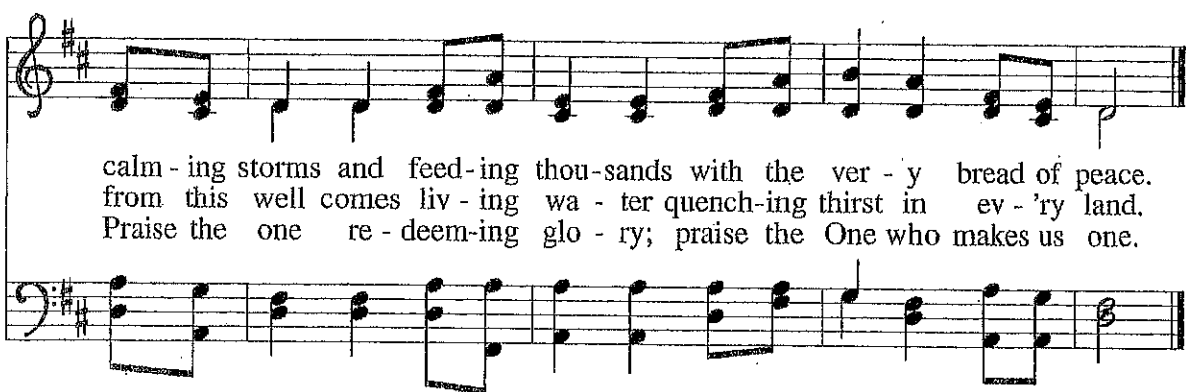
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

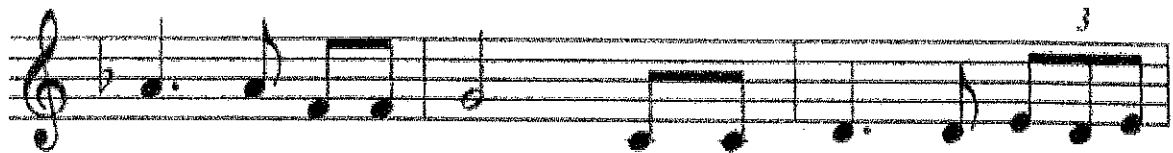
IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

EL SENYOR ÉS LA MEVA FORÇA

Jacques Berthier



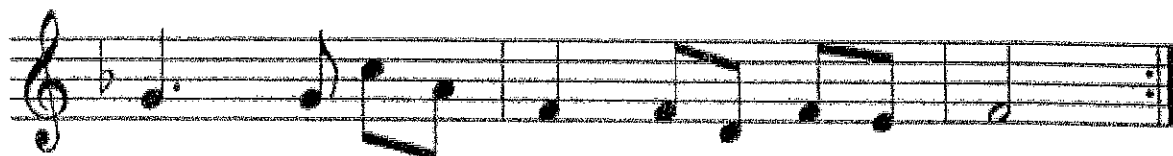
In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the
El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se -



Lord I will re - joice! Look to God, do not be a -
nyor el me - u cant. Ell m ha es - tat la sal - va - ci -



fraid. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is
ó. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc



near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.
por. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc por.

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GO AND...

REST

At the start of the new year, we are pushed to get organized, exercise more, and make New Year's resolutions. How do we take rest among all this? What does it mean to be like Jesus? It means taking time to pause, rest, and embrace the day. That might mean taking a nap, getting together with old friends, reading a good book, or enjoying the arts as we recognize God makes all things new.

Questions to Consider:

- What brings you rest?
- What does Sabbath mean for you? What does it look like in your life?
- Let GO, what are you going to give up this year so that you can rest?

Prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Suggested Song: In the Lord, I'll be Ever Thankful (Taize hymn)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org