

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes you to
The Great Thanksgiving*

FIFTH

Sunday

AFTER THE

Epiphany



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

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, Bruce Gerking, 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 2/4/24

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

Tuesday 2/6/24

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

Wednesday 2/7/24

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

Next Sunday 2/11/24

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

YEAH!!! We did it again!! We collected enough to sponsor 4 Tanzanian Orphans. I text Sarah Purcell and let her know as she is still in Tanzania.

Thank you to all who donated.

During the month of February, we will be collecting Socks, underwear & mittens/gloves for men, women and children to be given to the People's City Mission

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

GO AND...

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Conversation is an exchange involving active listening as well as taking turns sharing ideas and stories. It can be easy for us to fall into monologuing, lecturing, or tuning out especially when we think we know the answers. As a result, we often avoid having difficult conversations. Faith-filled disciples are called to be honest and engage with each other in Christ-like love.

Questions to Consider:

- What is your prayer as you consider engaging in a hard conversation?
- When was a time you had a hard conversation? What did it feel like? What did you learn from it?
- What is The conversation that you need to GO have and with whom?

Prayer: Engaging God, who is not afraid of any conversation, give me the words, wisdom, and heart to join in difficult conversations. Amen.

Suggested Song: Canticle of the Turning (ELW 723)

Learn More at www.nebraskasynod.org



Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 4, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm

Hallelujah! How good it is
to sing praises¹ to our God!
How pleasant it is
to honor¹ God with praise!
²The LORD re-¹ builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex-¹iles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the¹ brokenhearted
and binds¹ up their wounds.
⁴The LORD counts
the number¹ of the stars
and calls them all¹ by their names.
⁵Great is our LORD
and might-¹ y in power;

continued

there is no limit¹ to God's wisdom.
6The LORD lifts¹ up the lowly,
but casts the wicked¹ to the ground.
7Sing to the LORD¹ with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp¹ to our God,
8who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth,
making grass to grow
up¹ on the mountains.
9God provides food¹ for the cattle
and for the young ravens
¹when they cry.

10God is not impressed
by the might¹ of a horse,
and has no pleasure
in the speed¹ of a runner,
11but finds pleasure
in those who¹ fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love.
20c ¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.²⁰ To the Jews I

became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Gospel

Mark 1:29-39

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door.³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out

many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him.³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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I Love to Tell the Story



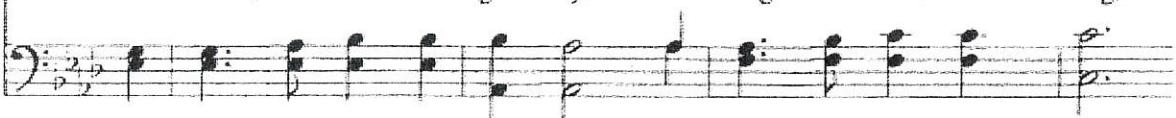
1 I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: How pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best



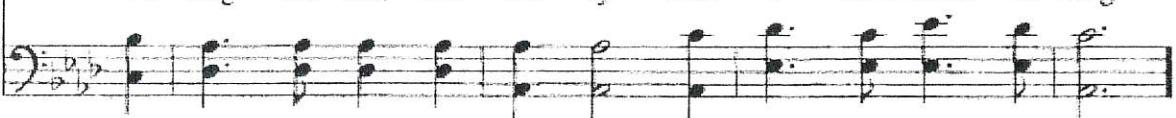
Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, Of Je - sus and his love.
 What seems, each time I tell it, More won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, For some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song.



It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.
 The mes - sage of sal - va - tion From God's own ho - ly Word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.



WITNESS

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; I'll sing this theme in glo - ry

And tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and his love.