

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



*Join Us for*  
**WORSHIP**

*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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Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS – (ELW p. 94)**

*Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**A: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

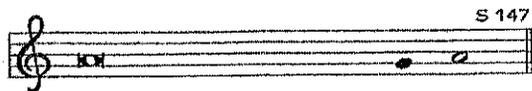
**A: Amen. Assembly sits.**

**GREETING** – (ELW p. 147)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

**KYRIE** - (ELW p. 147)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



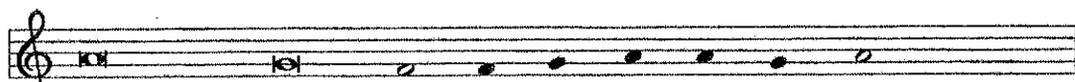
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



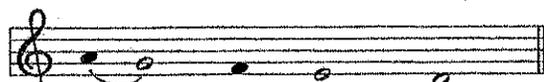
Lord, have mer - cy.



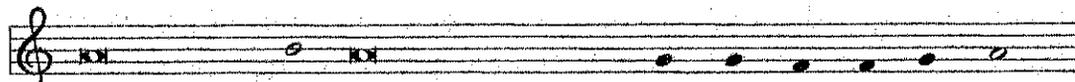
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



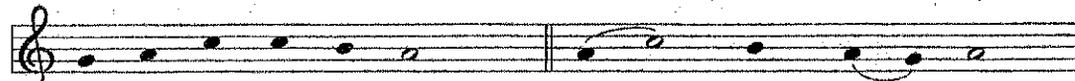
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE - (ELW p. 148)

Assisting minister S 148



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



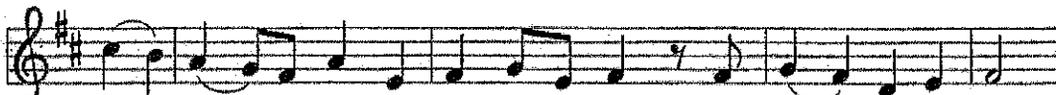
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



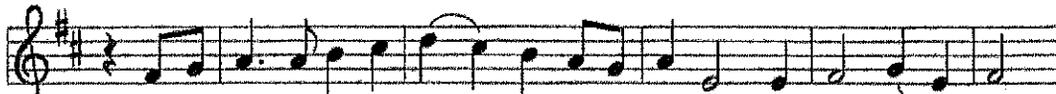
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



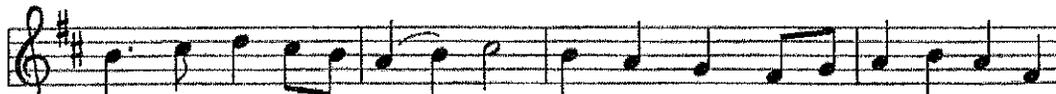
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see handout.

**FIRST READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** - Please see handout and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – (ELW p. 151) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL** – Please see handout.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.** *The assembly sits.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**APOSTLES CREED – (ELW p. 105)**

**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.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN - ELW #884 - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here  
below;

Praise him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – (ELW p. 152)**

Response after each portion of the prayer:

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**A:** hear our prayer.

**LORD'S PRAYER** – (ELW p. 154) – *Please stand in body or spirit for the Lord's Prayer.*

**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.**

**BLESSING** – (ELW p. 155)  
Response after the blessing:  
**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL** – (ELW p. 155)  
Response after the blessing:  
**A: Thanks be to God. *The assembly sits.***

**SENDING SONG**

**POSTLUDE**

*Please join us for  
fellowship in the  
basement  
following worship 😊*

# *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Gathering Song – ELW # 532 “Gather Us In”

Hymn of the Day – ELW # 677 “This Little Light of Mine”

Sending Song – ELW # 673 “God, Whose Almighty Word”

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

*Louis Bentzinger, Pastor Steve Billington, Gerry Brezenski, Linda Daniels,  
Julie Effken, Nancy Gerking, Elaine Hauberg, Char Helgren, Kathi Johnson,  
Diane Roesener, & Joan Wellensiek*

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

*Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania*

## *Announcements*

### **TODAY 2/8/26 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Osage Soup Dinner 11:00 – 1:00

### **MONDAY 2/9/26**

Grace and Hope Bible Study – 2:00 p.m.

### **TUESDAY 2/10/26**

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

### **WEDNESDAY 2/11/26**

Kids for Christ – 4:00 p.m.

7/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

### **THURSDAY 2/12/26**

ELCW Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

### **SATURDAY 2/14/26**

Happy Valentines Day!!



### **NEXT SUNDAY 2/15/26 Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

Faith Lutheran Soup Dinner 11:00 – 1:00



**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**

### **Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship Service Schedule.**

All services are at 7:00 p.m.

The midweek Wednesday Service theme will be the ELCA and Nebraska Synod material taken from Sundays and Seasons entitled "Conversations with Jesus; Service of Word for Lent". We will discuss the conversations that Jesus has with others in the previous Sunday's Gospel.

The Thursday Luncheon Midweek Worship includes the worship and theme from the night before and lunch. People may begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. Worship will begin at 11:45 a.m. with lunch being served 11:47 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. The service will continue following eating of the meal. People may arrive and leave as their schedules permit.

February 18 - Ash Wednesday at Hope Lutheran  
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

February 25 - Wednesday Midweek at Grace "Jesus' conversation with the devil"

February 26 - Thursday Luncheon service @ Grace gather beginning @ 11:30 a.m.



# Today's Readings

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

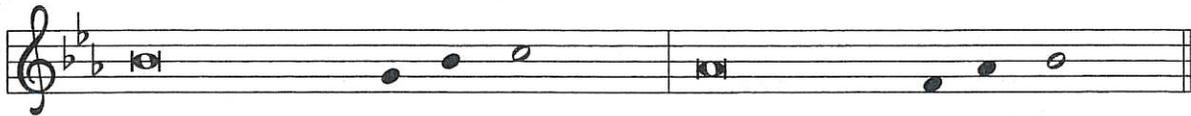
Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] [not printed]

## Psalm

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]; tone 1



Hallelujah!

Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight  
in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants**  
**will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright**  
**<sup>1</sup> will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches  
will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness  
will <sup>1</sup> last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness**  
**<sup>1</sup> for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful**  
**and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them  
to be gener- <sup>1</sup> ous in lending  
and to manage their af- <sup>1</sup> fairs  
with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken;**  
**the righteous will be kept**  
**in everlast- <sup>1</sup> ing remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid  
of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast,  
trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established**  
**and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,**  
**until they see their desire**  
**up- <sup>1</sup> on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and  
their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head  
with honor.

[<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry;**  
**they will gnash their teeth**  
**and <sup>1</sup> pine away;**  
**the desires of the wick- <sup>1</sup> ed**  
**will perish.]**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in

much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

*continued*

<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup>and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

<sup>9</sup>But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those  
who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly

God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup>Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup>Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup>“For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”  
But we have the mind of Christ.]

## Gospel

## Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

and shall inherit my holy mountain.

14 And it shall be said,  
"Build up, build up, prepare the way,  
remove every obstruction from my people's way."  
15 For thus says the high and lofty One  
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:  
"I dwell in the high and holy place,  
and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the humble,  
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

16 For I will not contend for ever,  
nor will I always be angry;  
for from me proceeds the spirit,  
and I have made the breath of life.

17 Because of the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry,  
I smote him, I hid my face and was angry;  
but he went on backsliding in the way of his own heart.

18 I have seen his ways, but I will heal him;  
I will lead him and requite him with comfort,  
creating for his mourners the fruit of the lips.

19 Peace, peace, to the far and to the near, says the LORD;  
and I will heal him.

20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea;  
for it cannot rest,  
and its waters toss up mire and dirt.

21 There is no peace, says my God,  
for the wicked."

**58** "Cry aloud, spare not,  
lift up your voice like a trumpet;  
declare to my people their transgression,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>g</sup> Or pursue your own business

57.14: Is 62.10; Jer 18.15  
57.15: Is 52.13; Deut 33.27; Is 40.28; 33.5; 66.1-2; Ps 34.18; 147.3; Is 61.1-3; Mt 5.3  
57.16: Gen 6.3; Ps 85.5; 103.9; Mic 7.18  
57.17: Is 2.7; 56.11; Jer 6.13; Is 1.4; Jer 3.14, 22  
57.18: Is 19.22; 30.26; 53.5; 52.12; 61.1-3  
57.19: Is 26.12; 32.17; Acts 2.39; Eph 2.13, 17  
57.20: Job 18.5-14; Is 3.9, 11  
57.21: Is 48.22; 59.8  
58.1: Is 40.6; 43.27; 50.1; 59.12  
58.2: Tit 1.16; Is 48.1; Jer 7.9-10; Is 1.4, 28; 59.13; 29.13; 57.3; Jas 4.8  
58.3: Mal 3.14; Zech 7.5-6  
58.4: Is 59.6; 1.15; 59.2; Joel 2.12-14  
58.5: 1 Kings 21.27  
58.6: Neh 5.10-12; Jer 34.8; Acts 8.23; Is 1.17; 58.9  
58.7: Job 31.19-20; Is 58.10; Ezek 18.7, 16; Is 16.3-4; Heb 13.2; Mt 25.35; 1.k 3.11; Deut 22.1-4; 1.k 10.31-32  
58.8: Is 58.10; 30.26; 33.24; Jer 30.17; 33.6; Ps 85.13; Is 62.1; Ex 14.19; Is 52.12

2 Yet they seek me daily,  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that did righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

3 "Why have we fasted, and thou seest it not?  
Why have we humbled ourselves,  
and thou takest no knowledge of it?"  
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,<sup>g</sup>  
and oppress all your workers.

4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel  
and to fight  
and to hit with wicked fist.  
Fasting like yours this day  
will not make your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day for a man to humble himself?  
Is it to bow down his head like a rush,  
and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?  
Will you call this a fast,  
and a day acceptable to the LORD?

6 "Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
and to break every yoke?"

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry, and he will say,  
Here I am.

"If you take away from the midst of you the yoke,  
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,  
if you pour yourself out for the hungry  
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,  
then shall your light rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be as the noon-day.

11 And the LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your desire with good things,<sup>h</sup>  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters fail not.

12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to dwell in.

13 "If you turn back your foot from the sabbath,  
from doing your pleasure<sup>i</sup> on my holy day,  
and call the sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
or seeking your own pleasure,<sup>i</sup>  
or talking idly;

14 then you shall take delight in the LORD,

<sup>h</sup> The meaning of the Hebrew word is *ur*  
<sup>i</sup> Or pursuing your own business