

Welcome to
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**4th Sunday after
Epiphany**

January 31 & February 1, 2026



WELCOME, NOISY OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

P: Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

C: **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

A: Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us. We bless you for these gifts of water especially Lake Erie and the Sandusky River.

C: **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

P: Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

C: **Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

A: Your love flows through the waters of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life.

C: Your steadfast love fills the earth.

P: Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love. Clothe us and all your people with grace. Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy. Guide us to walk humbly with you, whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW # 720

WE ARE CALLED

THE GREETING

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

C: And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

MICAH 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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." ⁶ "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? ⁷ 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?" ⁸ 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?

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 - 31

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,

²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

On Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Following the Children's moment, children in pre-k through 5th grade are invited to gather in the Sunday School rooms for an activity. They will return to worship before communion.

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



READING OF THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:1-12

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 5th chapter.

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

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

TODAY'S REFLECTION

REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

On Sunday,

THE AFTERWORD

Middle & High School Youth are invited following the reflection to meet in the Dining Room. They will connect with the message for the day and spend time in prayer. The youth will return following the offering hymn.

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW # 728

BLEST ARE THEY

THE CREED

A: Living together in trust and hope let us confess our faith as expressed through the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

At this time you are welcome to share the Peace of Christ with those around you. Following the Sharing of the Peace you may be seated.

THE OFFERING AND OFFERING MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING SONG

ELW # 815

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

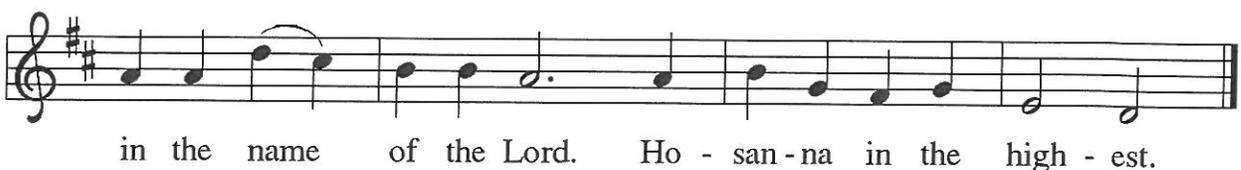
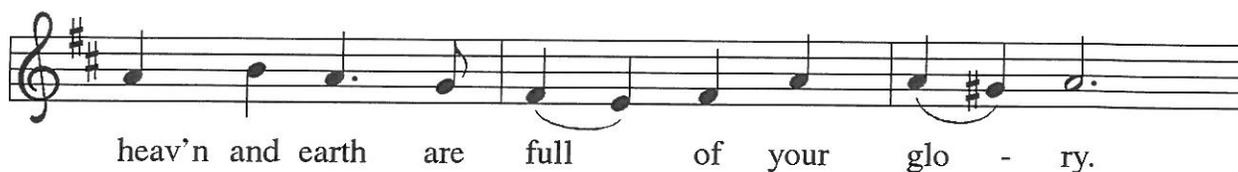
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Bright shining God, inner light of all the faithful!
We celebrate your gifts of light, love, and all of creation.
We rejoice that you have made us in your image.

We rejoice that you have called us to live in your limitless love. We rejoice in the gift of your only child, Jesus, our bright morning star, who shines forever bright to light the way through our darkness and into the ways of justice and peace.

Your Holy Spirit shines your Good News into our lives. With each new day, you call us to feed the hungry, bring recovery of sight to the blind, liberate the oppressed, heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds, and keep watch for the dawn of your reign on this earth.

For all of this, we give you thanks and we praise you, joining our voices with all life on earth and the company of heaven, who forever sing their hymns of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

By your Spirit bless this bread and this wine that they may become for us the presence of Christ among us. Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives. Enlighten us that we may be your people, the body of the risen Christ, the light of the world, set apart to serve the world that you have made.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

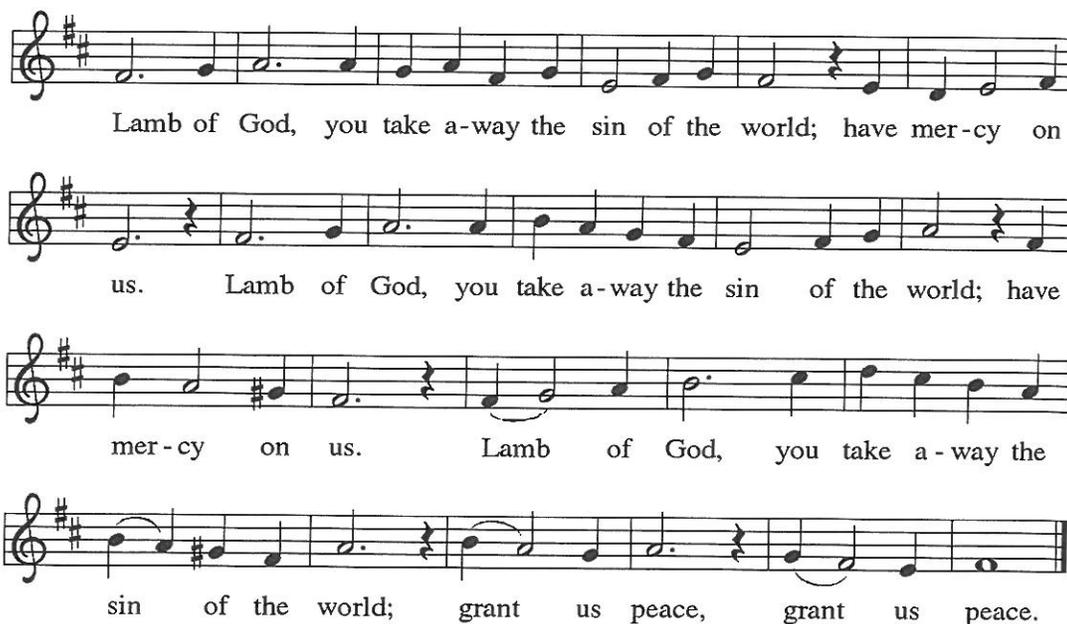
- A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.
- C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; 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.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 546

TO BE YOUR PRESENCE

After all have communed, you will be invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

THE SPIRIT SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace!

A: Let your light shine forever!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS! You are God's gift to us today. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and come worship with us again.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Sunday worship is live streamed on Facebook.

DRIVE-IN CHURCH - If you are joining us on Sunday in the parking lot please tune your radio to 90.3 FM.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory and honor of Kenneth Damschroder's birthday, by David & Ruthann House and family.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given as a gift to the congregation. (**Radio Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday morning at 9:30 am on Eagle 99.1. Anyone wishing to sponsor a radio broadcast [cost is \$72.50], should contact the church office.**)

A WORD OF THANKS TO OUR ALTAR FLOWER AND RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS LAST WEEKEND: **Altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our dedicated church staff, by Roger & Barb Haynes.

The Radio Broadcast was given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents Dick Rodenhauser and Mary Rodenhauser Gibson, our brother Greg and our stepfather George Gibson, by Becky McElfresh, Laurie & Bill Halm, and Andy & Arrel Rodenhauser.

THIS WEEK AS YOU PRAY please remember: Diane Berryman, Kristen Brown, Tim Dabrunz, Peggy Dorr, Donna Garner, Duane Pump, Tim Rutherford, Julie Stawowy, Melissa Toker, and Connie Wasserman.

HOSPITAL VISITS! If you, or a member of your family, are in the hospital, please call the church office and let us know.

HEARING DEVICES are available at the Usher's station at the back of the Sanctuary. Please return after worship so that they can be charged and ready for the next service.

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS - If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer and would like to be added to our prayer list, please write their name on the back of our *Welcome Cards*. You are welcome to indicate what prayers are needed, i.e. "has an upcoming surgery" etc. Names submitted for our prayer list will remain on the list for four (4) weeks. Our goal is to keep the prayer list ever flowing and as up to date as possible.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm and Friday from 9 am - 1 pm.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWSLETTER should be sent to Tricia in the office at dabrunztricia@yahoo.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today (2/1) following worship. Copies of the Annual Report are available at the Baker Street entrance and in the Narthex.

THE PROJECT DAY GROUP will once again make quilts for the Let's Build Beds Project in September 2026 and Lutheran World Relief. They need FLAT bed sheets to use as the back of the quilts. These may be new or gently used (no holes or stains. Please drop off the sheets to the church office or place them in the shopping carts. Thank you for supporting our local and Lutheran World Relief projects.

FOR OUR YOUTH

KIDS ZONE - Toddlers - 5th graders are invited to join Penny Russell and Cornelia Star following the Children's Message for a short lesson and activity. They will return to worship before communion. If your child does not wish to participate they return to their seat following the Children's Message.

AFTERWORD for our Middle & High School youth it's not the last word, just the next step. Students are invited following the sermon to connect with message of the day and pray. They will return to worship during the offering hymn.

ATTENTION PARENTS - Do you want to keep your children busy during worship, but you don't want to take them out of the sanctuary? Please check out our new play area in front of the chapel. There are activities, toys to play with, and books to read while you join us for worship. If you feel that you need to take your children out of the sanctuary there is a nursery with live audio of the service, so you don't miss out on worship.

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THIS WEEK AT GRACE

February 1 - 8, 2026

Today: **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

NOISY OFFERING & BRIDGE OF HOPE

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday: 9:00 – Project Day

11:30 - PB & J², Dining Room

1:00 - Bible Study with Maureen

6:00 - Pack 302 Parent Meeting

7:00 - Dartball, Home

Tuesday: - - - - -

Wednesday: 5:00 - S.L.A.M. with Maureen

5:00 - Bible Study with Pr. Bailey

6:00 - Youth Activities

Thursday: 11:30 - Soup Kitchen

Friday: - - - - -

Saturday: 4:00 - Worship/Communion

Sunday: 9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone

10:15 - Confirmation

WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: Cancelled

SERVING IN WORSHIP

SATURDAY 4 PM

**GREETER:
NARTHEX** Thomas O'Brien

READER Carole Miller

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANT** Wendy Bailey

SUNDAY 9 AM

ACOLYTES Anna & Julia Haubert

**GREETER:
NARTHEX** Vi Ohms

**GREETER:
BAKER ST.** Marcella Widmer

**WORSHIP
ASSISTANT** Kristen Lindsay

READER Henry Seibert

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANT** Bev Bradford

**DEACONS/
CLOSERS** Tracy Michles
Jerry Letzring

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Called to Present the Light of Christ!