

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 9, 2022



*They offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh*

MATTHEW 2:12

Grace Lutheran Church

8:00 am: Spoken Service & 10:15 am: Liturgical Service

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

² Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to ***belong*** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who ***believe*** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to ***become*** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today

Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Betty N., John N., John S., Joyce B., Ruth T., Carol F., & Carol F.
Family and Friends of June Becker

Family and friends: The Foster Family (Claire Brick); Family of Regina, (relative of Marlene Doer); Annmarie (friends of Marlene D.), Gage, Donna, Virginia (friends of Pastor Althea); Jody (niece of Grings); Pauline, Anyah, Edward, Cecilia, and Richard (friends of Welfields); Shirley & Carl (Parents of Debbie Kleuser); Jim, Vicki, (friends of Meg LaSpina), Payton (friend of Joyce Bianco), Carol Waters (friend of Claire Brick), Dotte Currie, friend of Deborah Walker), Karen Gubilo (daughter of Sue Robinson); Gwen (mother of Corinne Rhodes); Bernadette, Lou, Ron.

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN;
Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

In Memory - June Becker

WITH ONE VOICE

Bread of Life - Setting 5

Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Variations on *Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen*

By Johann Gottfried Walther

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels,
who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.
Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, **we confess our sin before you.**

We replace compassion with competition.

We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek.

We are quick to anger but slow to forgive.

We have not put on love in harmony with you.

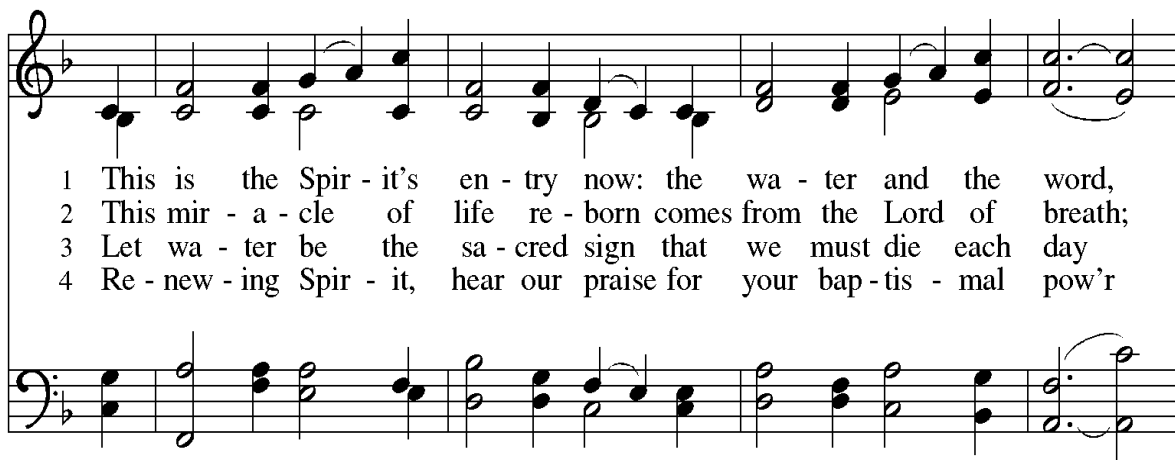
Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word.

**Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed,
may reflect your love born among us. Amen.**

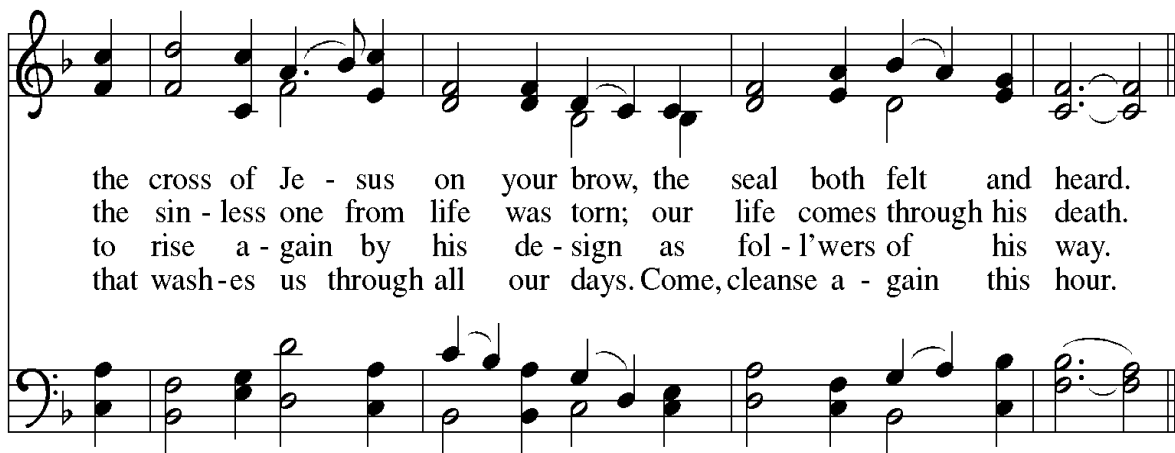
I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary,

Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace. **Amen.**



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933

Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version

Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING

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

KYRIE



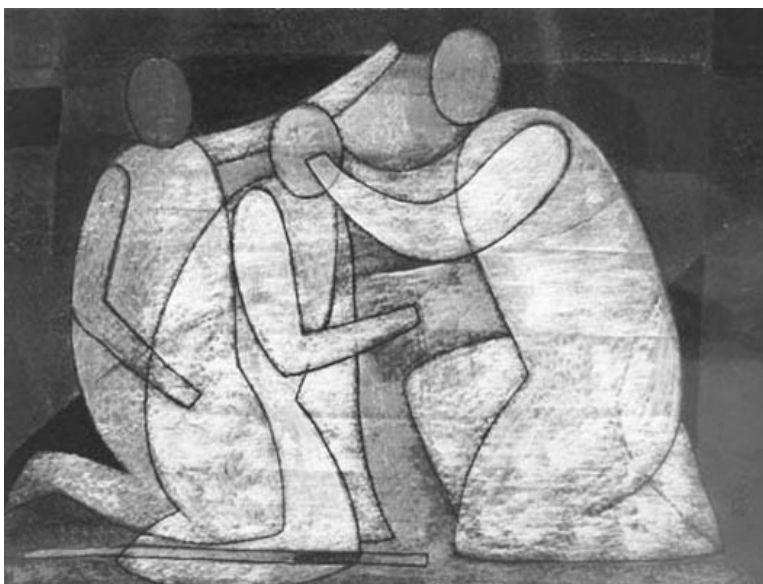
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



GLORY TO GOD



☪ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



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



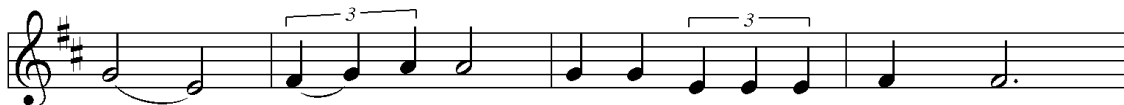
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☪ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



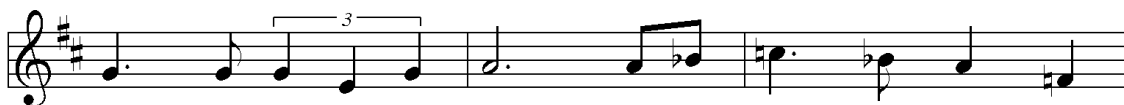
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☪ 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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God, / and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²that he may rule your | people righteously / and the | poor with justice;

³that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, / from one generation to another.

⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;

¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the ¹isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba ¹offer gifts.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.

**¹⁴From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

2for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you,

⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;

¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

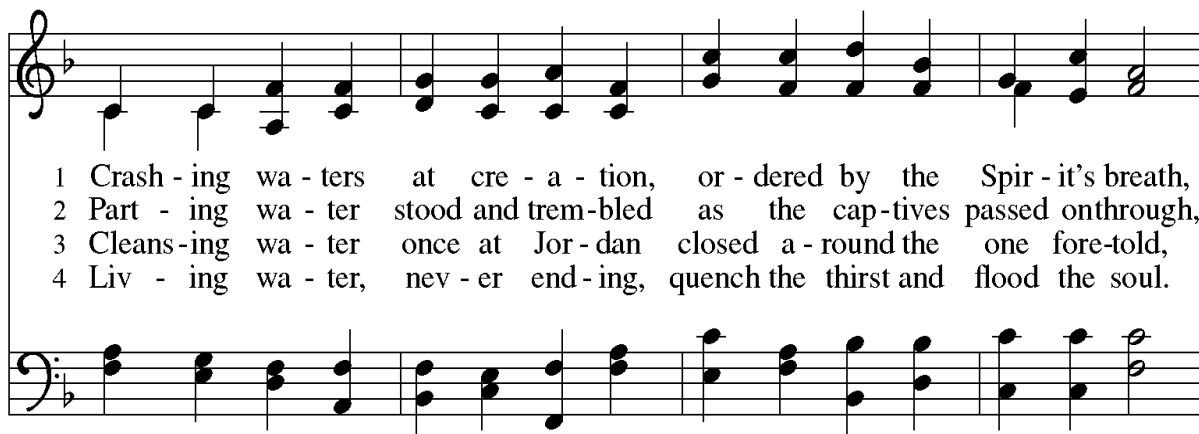
SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

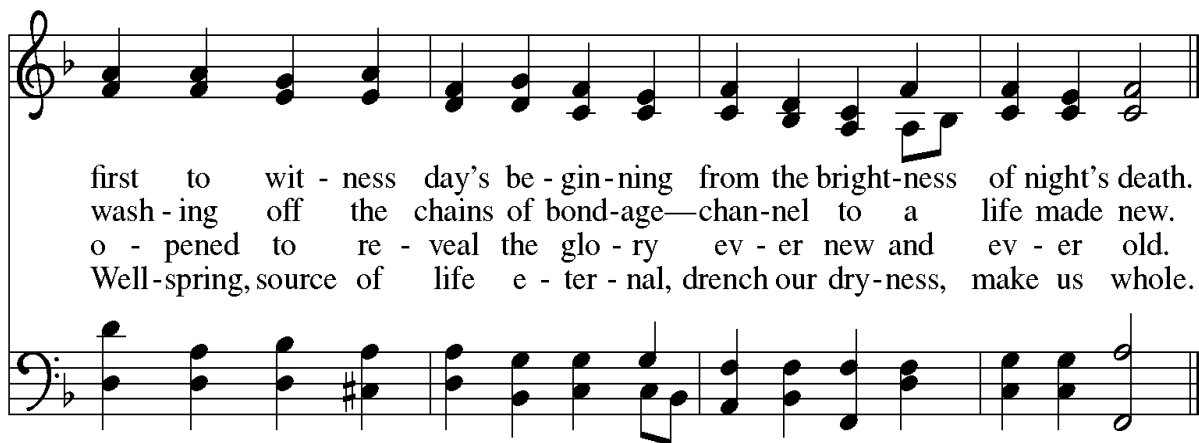
HYMN OF THE DAY

Crashing Waters at Creation

ELW # 455



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem-bled as the cap-tives passed onthrough,
 3 Cleans-ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore-told,
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end-ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin-ning from the bright-ness of night's death.
 wash - ing off the chains of bond-age—chan-nel to a life made new.
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 Well-spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy

by Donald Busarow

Please stand as you are able

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



Let the vine- yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we have many blessings to be thankful for in our lives. You have changed our lives forever with your Word made flesh. Grant us courage to change the lives of others with your Good News. Bless our congregation, this community, and all the offerings we give back to you for your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us; so let us be bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

Brief silence.

Leader: By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be persistent in prayer and service, that all those in need may find relief and guidance. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Leader: You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect all land from drought and flood. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Leader: Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pastor: You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need especially all those we name now or in our hearts... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Leader: You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace especially all the loved ones we have lost and all those who are friends of our church. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear and doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

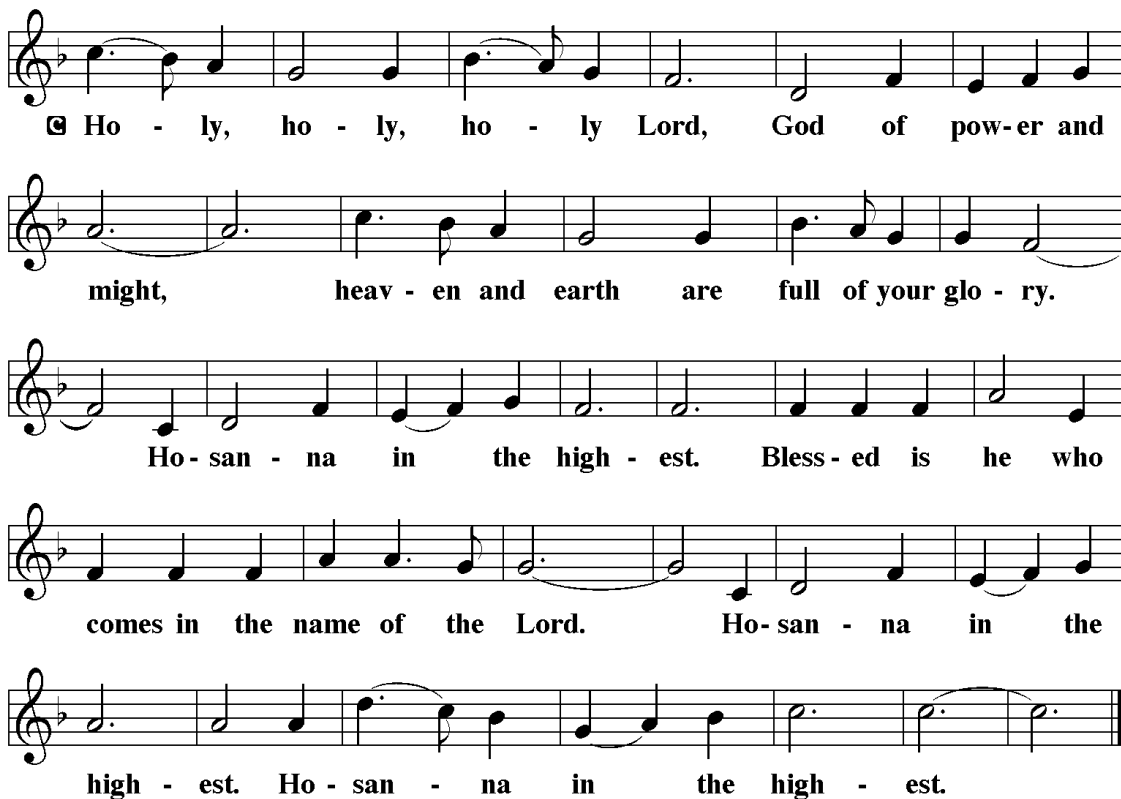
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

On 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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

**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**

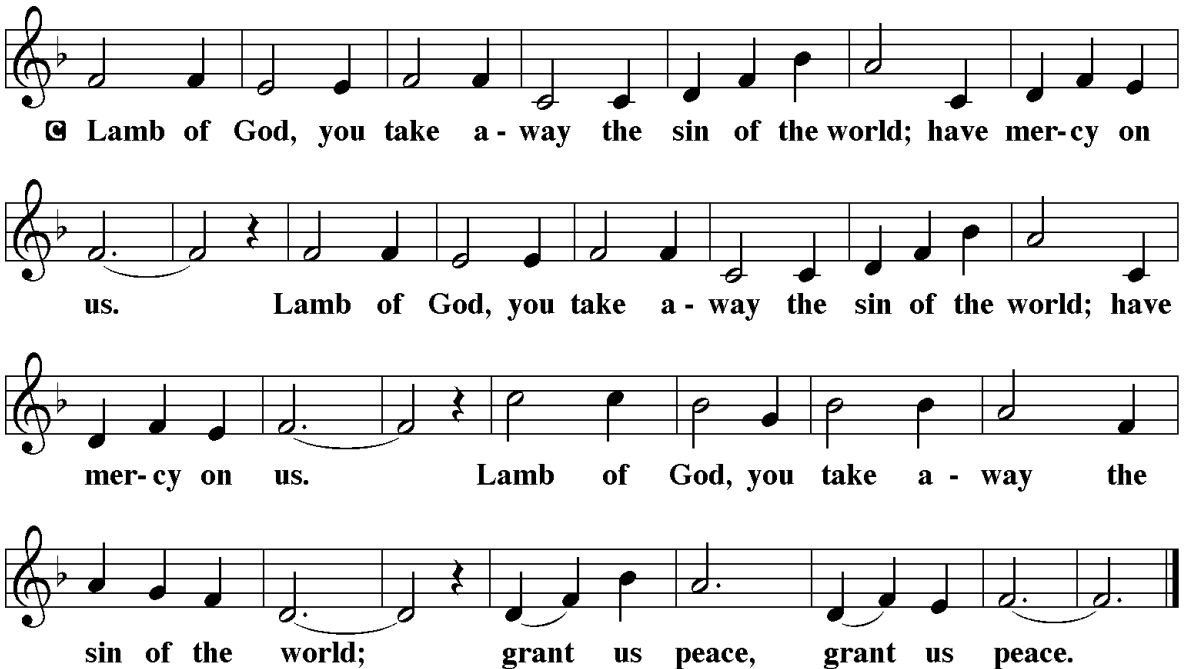
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

COMMUNION HYMN



☐ 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 HOLY COMMUNION

IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

As we have experienced Christ, our Savior, in this meal, may Almighty God continue to nourish you and encourage you as you continue your journey in faith. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together... **Most High God, you have come among us at this table.**

**By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING *We are blessed and encouraged as we depart from our gathering.*

Pastor: May God bless you and hold you close.

May Christ's presence guide you in all you do. May the Holy Spirit shine in you and bring others closer to God's love and † give you everlasting hope.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Christ, when for Us You Were Baptized

ELW # 304

Music is on page 18

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen

by Johann Gottfried Walther

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

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SENDING HYMN

Christ, when for Us You Were Baptized

ELW # 304

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight- way and stead- fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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VISITORS: Welcome to Grace.

Please sign the visitors book located in the Narthex/Lobby on the podium or sign a Connection Card located in the pews to let us know who you are.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday at 8:45 am.

Conference Room

This adult class consists of videos, Bible study, current event discussions, and other faith related topics.

Anyone and everyone is welcome!

**“GRACE FRIENDS”
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Children will leave for their classes with their teachers following the children’s sermon.

2022 FLOWER CHART is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- ⇒ Mayonnaise,
- ⇒ Ketchup, Mustard
- ⇒ Crackers,
- ⇒ Chef Boyardee cans
- ⇒ Beets, Spinach
- ⇒ pudding cups , brownie mix,
- ⇒ cake mix & frosting
- ⇒ Bread, dairy products, Eggs, brown gravy, juice.

**GRACE PLACE FOOD
PANTRY—OPEN**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am until 11:30 am. Pantry is closed the first full week of every month.

2022 GIVING ENVELOPES are ready and available for you to pick up this month. They are located in the Church Lobby and organized in alphabetical order for your convenience.



JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING collected for **ELCA TORNADO DISASTER RELIEF** on Sunday, December 19, 2021 totaled **\$378.05**

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets tonight at Reformation Lutheran in Absecon at 6:00 pm.

SUPPORT TEAM will meet on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room.



Events This Week - January 9 - 16, 2022

Sunday 1/9 Epiphany of Our Lord

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Grace Friends Sunday School

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

6:00 pm - Confirmation Class

@ Reformation

Monday 1/10

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry

7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

Tuesday 1/11

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry

6:30 pm - NA

7:00 pm - Support Team Meeting

Wednesday 1/12

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry

11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Duplicate Bridge

7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

7:30 pm - Compassionate Friends - Lounge

Thursday 1/13

9:00—11:30 am - Food Pantry

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 1/14

7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 1/15

Sunday 1/16

8:00 am - Spoken Service - Lounge

8:45 am - Adult Sunday School

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Grace Friends Sunday School

4:00 pm - AA Meeting - Lounge

Dedications

CANDLES

In Honor of Michayla's 13th Birthday

Given by Brenda and Bob Traa

