

As he was coming up out  
of the water,  
he saw the heavens  
torn apart and the  
Spirit descending  
like a dove  
on him.

Mark 1:10, NRSV

## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Thornville, Ohio

### VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

### OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

### PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

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*We do not presume to come to your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP - LBW SETTING 1

*Watchword: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness. – Psalm 29:2 ESV*

### PRELUDE | WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | OPENING PRAYER

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#### *Confession and Absolution*

##### INVOCATION

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*The people stand.*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

##### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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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.

**C: Amen.**

##### CONFESSION

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P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The people kneel for silent reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

##### ABSOLUTION

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*The pastor stands and addresses the assembly.*

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

**C: Amen.**

*The people stand.*

#### *Gathering*

##### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Blue Book 690

*Connection Cards/Prayer Requests should be passed to the center isle at this time.*

##### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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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.**

THE KYRIE

A=Leader; C=all voices

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** 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.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

C=all voices; I=female voices; II=male voices

**C** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

**C** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

**C** This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,  
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.  
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray. Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*The people may be seated.*



**The Liturgy of the Word**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*Genesis 1:1-5*

L: A reading from Genesis.

*From the beginning, God's spirit hovered over the waters. He hovered over the waters of the Jordan. He overs over the waters today as we are baptized in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**PSALMODY**

*Psalm 29*

*The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,\* ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due his name;\* worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;\*  
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;\* the voice of the Lord  
is a | voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;\* the Lord breaks the ce- | dars  
of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**he makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,\* and Mount Hermon like a | young  
wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord | shakes  
the wilderness;\* the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the Lord makes the | oak trees writhe\* and strips  
the | forests bare.**

<sup>9</sup>And in the temple | of the Lord\* all are | crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>**The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;\* the Lord sits enthroned  
as | king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>The Lord shall give strength | to his people;\* the Lord shall give his people  
the bless- | ing of peace.

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Acts 19:1-7*

L: A reading from Acts.

*The baptism given by John gives way to the greater baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ in which we share.*

<sup>1</sup>And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John's baptism.” <sup>4</sup>And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people

to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup>There were about twelve men in all.

L: The Word of the Lord.      C: **Thanks be to God.**

## THE VERSE

*The people please stand.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE GOSPEL

*Mark 1:4-11*

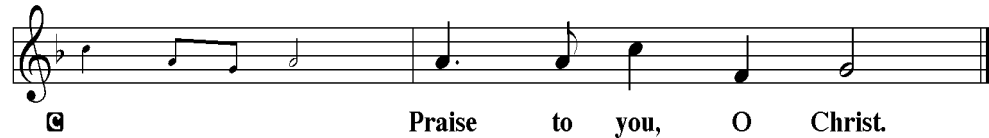
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.



## SERMON

Pastor Tom Jacobson

*The people may be seated.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Thy Holy Wings*

Blue Book 741

*The people stand.*



## *The Installation of Church Council*

P: The following persons, having been elected by Grace Lutheran Church to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read.

*Carl Lahman, President — Matt Sheridan, Vice President — Diane Christensen, Secretary — Rick Rockwell, Treasurer — Casey Sigler, Upreach — Linda Keaser, Inreach — Vicki Jones, Outreach — Jackie Combs, Financial Secretary*

P: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

## THE 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.**

*The people are seated.*

P: St. Paul writes: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (1 Cor 12.4–7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

*The minister addresses those being installed.*

P: On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

R: **Yes, by the help of God.**

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: **Yes, by the help of God.**

P: I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

R: **Amen.**

*All return to their places.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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*After each petition:*

A: *Lord, in your mercy,*    C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**



## *The Liturgy of Holy Communion*

## THE PEACE

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P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord and then are seated.*

## OFFERING

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*Stationary plates have been placed in the sanctuary for giving offerings before or after service. Online giving through the church's website is also highly encouraged. Quiet music will play to provide a time for prayer and reflection.*

*Special Music (10:30m only): "Wings of a Dove"*

*Sandy Moentmann, Paul Moentmann, Diane Christensen, Sue Ellen Simmons*

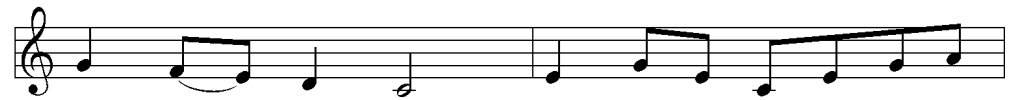
## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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*The people stand.*



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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



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

## THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

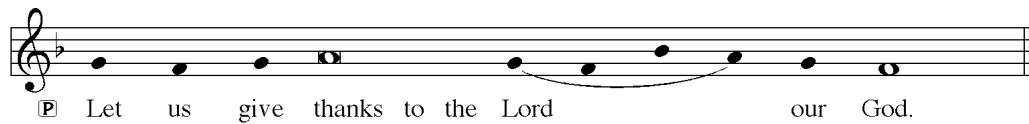
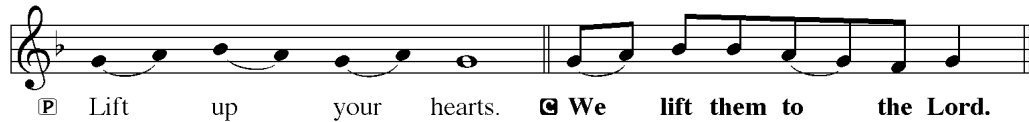
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A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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## THE PREFACE

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P: It is indeed right .... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

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## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: 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.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.

## THE FRACTION

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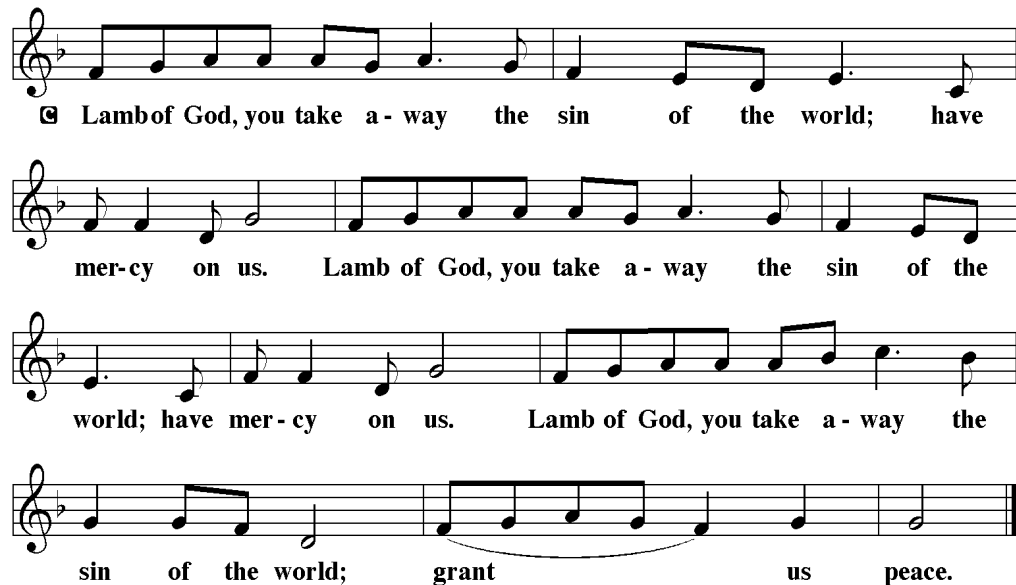
**P:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C:** Happy are those who take refuge in him!

*The people may be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

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☞ 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

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*Lutherans teach that Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) was instituted by Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink. As his words declare, with bread and wine, he imparts to us his body and blood, and with it the grace of God. This sacrament is God's way of giving us the good news of Jesus in a concrete, physical way as we continue our pilgrimage on earth. We are rightly prepared to receive this great gift when we come before God with humility and faith. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.*

To receive Holy Communion, come forward in two lines (10:30) or one line (8:00) as the ushers direct you. With open hands, you will receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister. For those not able to receive regular bread, some gluten free wafers are available. Then proceed to receive the wine from an assistant on your side of the sanctuary. Take an empty cup, which will be filled using a pouring chalice. For those not able to receive wine, there are some pre-filled cups of grape juice available. After receiving the Lord's Supper, the communicant may say "Amen" and return to your pew for prayer. Those choosing not to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a brief prayer and blessing. You may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest.

*Hymns during distribution: Blue Book 771, 693, 697*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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*The people please stand.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
 He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with  
 shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.



*Sending*

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you  
 and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

☐ A - men

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

**THE POSTLUDE**

*We are sent into the world to proclaim God's grace in word and deed.*

**PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP**

*Almighty God, grant that the words we have heard this day with our ears may be grafted onto our hearts through your grace, that they may produce in us the fruit of a good life, to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen*



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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 The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



**COMMEMORATIONS:**

As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

- Jan. 13 George Fox, renewer of society, 1691
- Jan. 14 Eivind Josef Berggrav, Bishop of Oslo, 1959

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR 2 EPIPHANY (January 14)**

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|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Samuel 3:1-20       | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 |
| 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | John 1:43-51         |