



# MISSION

## **WORSHIP**

The Sunday after Epiphany  
The Baptism of Our Lord

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church | Seward, NE

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January 10, 2021

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and personal assisted listening devices are available on request. The service can be heard throughout the building so that you can participate even if you have to take your child out for a while. Restrooms are in the hall between the chapel and fellowship area. If you have any questions please feel free to ask an usher.

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.gracesewar.org](http://www.gracesewar.org) the member connect tab, or scan this code.



## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

### *Communion*

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

**Visitors:** Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Mrs. Karma Ridpath

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# THE COMMON SERVICE

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*"The Common Service" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America. It is also in CW pg. 15.*

## OPENING HYMN

*To Jordan's River Came Our Lord | 89*

- 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord, The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,  
The God from God, the Light from Light, The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might.
- 2 The Savior came to be baptized—The Son of God in flesh disguised—  
To stand beneath the Father's will And all his promises fulfill.
- 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood And John baptized the Lamb of God,  
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove, Descended on him from above.
- 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous sound  
Came God's own voice with words profound:  
"This is my Son," was his decree, "The one I love, who pleases me."
- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight Anointed Christ in glorious sight  
As God's own choice, from Adam's fall To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute! This man is Christ, our substitute!  
He was baptized in Jordan's stream, Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

## INVOCATION<sup>1</sup>

*please stand, if able*

**M** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



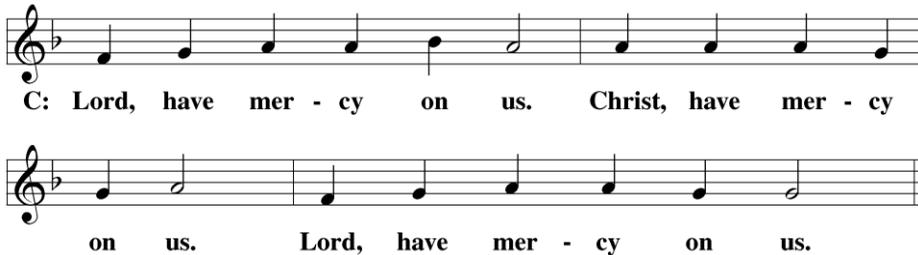
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<sup>1</sup> These words, which Jesus spoke when he instituted Holy Baptism (Matthew 28:19), remind us that we approach God as his adopted children. The sign of the cross, which the pastor makes also when pronouncing the absolution, is made over people when they are baptized to signify that they have been redeemed by Christ, the crucified and risen Lord.

## CONFESSION

**M** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

## ABSOLUTION

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

**M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



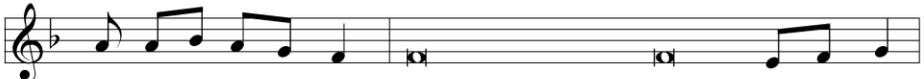
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

**M** 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. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs 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: A - men.

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## *The Word*

### FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to me, you coastlands.  
Pay attention, you faraway peoples!  
The Lord called me from the womb.  
When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.  
<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.  
He hid me in the shadow of his hand.  
He made me a polished arrow.  
He concealed me in his quiver.  
<sup>3</sup>He said to me, "You are my servant Israel,  
in whom I will display my glory."  
<sup>4</sup>But I said to myself, "I have labored in vain.  
I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.  
Yet a just verdict for me rests with the Lord,

and my reward is with my God.”

<sup>5</sup>But now the Lord,

who formed me from the womb to be his servant,

to turn Jacob back to him,

so that Israel might be gathered to him,

so that I will be honored in the eyes of the Lord,

because my God has been my strength—

<sup>6</sup>the Lord said:

It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant

to raise up only the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,

so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,

so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth. (EHV)

**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God!

## SECOND LESSON

*Hebrews 10:19-25*

<sup>19</sup>Brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>It is a new and living way he opened for us through the curtain, that is, his flesh.

<sup>21</sup>We also have a great priest over the house of God. <sup>22</sup>So let us approach with a sincere heart, in the full confidence of faith, because our hearts have been sprinkled to take away a bad conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold on firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup>Let us also consider carefully how to spur each other on to love and good works.

<sup>25</sup>Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have the habit of doing. Rather, let us encourage each other, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (EHV)

**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God!

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**M** Alleluia. A time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. Alleluia.



## GOSPEL

Mark 1:4-11

*please stand*

**[M]** The Gospel according to Mark chapter 1.



<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. <sup>6</sup>John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! <sup>8</sup>I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>Just as Jesus came up out of the water, 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 Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you." (EHV)

**[M]** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## NICENE CREED

**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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*be seated*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*To Your Temple I Draw Near* | **226**

- 1 To your temple I draw near; Lord, I love to worship here.  
Here are sacrament and Word; Here believers meet their Lord.
- 2 I through Christ am reconciled; I through Christ become your child.  
Abba, Father, give me grace In your courts to seek your face.

3 While your glorious praise is sung, Touch my lips, unloose my tongue,  
That my joyful soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righteousness.

4 While the prayers of saints ascend, God of love, to mine attend.  
Hear me, for your Spirit pleads; Hear, for Jesus intercedes.

5 While I listen to your law, Fill my soul with holy awe  
Till your gospel brings to me Life and immortality.

6 While your ministers proclaim Peace and pardon in your name,  
Through their voice, by faith, may I Hear you speaking from the sky.

7 From your house, when I return, May my heart within me burn,  
And at evening let me say, "I have walked with God today."

## SERMON

Hebrews 10:19-25

## CREATE IN ME

*please stand, if able*



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

*be seated*

**OFFERING:** *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

*1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M** Lord Jesus, at your baptism you revealed yourself as the obedient Son of Man, fulfilling all righteousness. Your heavenly Father revealed you as his beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. The Holy Spirit revealed you as the Christ, anointed and armed to destroy the work of the devil.

**C** **We thank you, beloved Son of God, that you took on yourself the nature of a servant, became like us, and were obedient to the will of your heavenly Father.**

**M** Lord Jesus, eternal Word of God, you have connected your mighty Word and gracious promises to the water of Holy Baptism. In Baptism you cleansed us from sin, redeemed us from death, and clothed us in your perfect righteousness. We praise you for the promise and treasure of Baptism.

**C** **Encourage us to remember our baptisms daily as we die to sin and rise to new life with you.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

**M** Baptized into your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, We claim a place, though weak and lowly, among your saints, your chosen host, Buried with Christ and dead to sin. Your Spirit now shall live within.

**C** **All that I am and love most dearly—receive it all, O Lord, from me. Let me confess my faith sincerely, and help me your own child to be! Let nothing that I am or own serve any will but yours alone. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

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## *The Sacrament*

*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)*

*Children who come forward with their parents will receive a blessing*

**[M]** The Lord be with you.



**[M]** Lift up your hearts.



**[M]** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.





C: It is good and right so to do.

☐ It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**M** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



## LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION

1 How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hail afar  
The light in Judah shining.  
O David's Son of Jacob's race, My Bridegroom and my King of grace,  
For you my heart is pining.  
Lowly, Holy, Great and glorious, O victorious Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heav'nly places.

2 O highest joy by mortals won, True Son of God and Mary's Son,  
The highborn King of ages!  
In your blest body let me be, E'en as the branch is in the tree,  
Your life my life supplying.  
Sighing, Crying For the savor Of your favor  
Resting never Till I rest in you forever.

3 O mighty Father, in your Son You loved me ere you had begun  
This ancient world's foundation.  
Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in spirit him I see,  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss is this! He is living, To me giving  
Life forever; Nothing me from him can sever.

4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, beginning without end,  
The first and last, eternal!  
And you at length—O glorious grace—Will take me to that holy place,  
The home of joys supernal.  
Amen, Amen! Come and meet me, Quickly greet me! With deep yearning,  
Lord, I look for your returning.

5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of music ring  
In God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way, Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day  
Till trav'ling days are ended.  
Sing out, Ring out Triumph glorious, O victorious Chosen nation;  
Praise the God of your salvation.

**SONG OF SIMEON**

*please stand, if able*

**C:** Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

**M** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

**M** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** A - men.

## BLESSING

**M** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert* | 709

1 Christ, your footprints through the desert  
Led to Jordan's flowing stream.  
There you heard the herald crying  
Israel's old prophetic dream:  
"He is coming! He is coming!  
He will cleanse the earth with flame!  
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!  
Wash away your guilt and shame!"

2 Christ, you heard the stirring summons  
As by Jordan's bank you stood;  
Bathed, though sinless, with your people  
In the river's cleansing flood.  
High above, the heavens opened;  
Came the Spirit as a dove;  
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing:  
"See my Son, the one I love!"

3 Son of God, the road from Jordan  
Led at last to Calv'ry's hill.  
There upon the cross forsaken,  
You fulfilled the Father's will.  
Lamb of God, we see you dying,  
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.  
But where death rose up to triumph,  
You began your glorious reign!

4 God, in Baptism you have made us  
One with Christ, our risen Lord;  
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven  
Through the water and the Word.  
Help us hear your urgent summons,  
Calling us to serve you now.

Send us forth, your sons and daughters,  
With the cross upon our brow.

### **Communion Procedure**

After the consecration, napkins will be placed on the communion rail 6 ft apart by an assistant wearing gloves. A wafer and individual cup will be placed on each napkin by the pastor who will be wearing gloves.

When everything is set out the first group may come to commune. You may eat and drink as pastor speaks the words "take and eat", "take and drink." On dismissal please take the napkin and cup and place it in the basket. Hand sanitizer is available next to the basket.

Please do your best to keep your six-foot distance at the altar (families can stand next to each other) and as you come to and return from the altar.

The process is repeated as often as necessary for all who want to commune to do so.



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 8:45 AM Worship with Communion  
4 PM Annual Voters and Ladies meetings

**Wednesday:** 7 PM Online Bible Study

**Thursday:** 6:00 PM Catechism Class (Zoom)

**Sunday:** 8:45 AM Worship

The voters and ladies will meet today at 4 PM. We will begin with a joint devotion and sharing of information and questions with all present. Following this the voters and ladies will hold their separate meetings. We encourage you to come and be a part of the discussion.

The big decision for the voters today is to answer the question: Does Grace support the NELHS Board continuing to look into sharing a campus pastor with NELHS knowing this would dissolve the Bethel/Grace dual parish? We are not being asked whether or not we will do this. The Board just wants to know if we think it's worth further discussion. They don't want to spend time working on something we are not interested in doing.



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSeward](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSeward)



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 15, Facebook live 5, Post clicks 20, Faithlife Slide Service 28. Offerings: Home 3,664.25; WELS 125.00; NELHS 100.00; Trinity 1,474.25.

**To God be the glory!**



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