

# GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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+ The Order of Service +

## The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME GUESTS!** We are delighted to have you join us for worship this morning. Please come and worship with us again!

We are following the Divine Service, Setting 4, beginning on page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book.

The Preservice Music

A Time for Meditation

The Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

The Ringing of the Bell

Words of Welcome by Pastor James Batchelor

### Opening Hymn #826 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying”

- 1 Hark, the voice of Jesus crying,  
“Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvests waiting—  
Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
Rich reward He offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
“Here am I, send me, send me”?
- 2 If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked  
With the judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children  
To the Savior’s waiting arms.

- 3 If you cannot be a watchman,  
    Standing high on Zion's wall,  
Pointing out the path to heaven,  
    Off'ring life and peace to all,  
With your prayers and with your bounties  
    You can do what God commands;  
You can be like faithful Aaron,  
    Holding up the prophet's hands.
- 4 Let none hear you idly saying,  
    "There is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying  
    And the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly,  
    Let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth,  
    "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Text (sts. 1-2, 4): Daniel March, 1816-1909, alt; (st. 3): unknown, alt.

*Stand*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** Who made heaven and earth.

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace

for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 119:9–16; antiphon: v. 12*

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord;

**C Teach me your statutes!**

**P** How can a young man keep his way pure?

**C By guarding it according to your word.**

**P** With my whole heart I seek you;

**C Let me not wander from your commandments!**

**P** I have stored up your word in my heart,

**C That I might not sin against you.**

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord;

**C Teach me your statutes!**

**P** With my lips I declare

**C All the just decrees of your mouth.**

**P** In the way of your testimonies I delight

**C As much as in all riches.**

**P** I will meditate on your precepts

**C And fix my eyes on your ways.**

**P** I will delight in your statutes;

**C I will not forget your word.**

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord;

**C** Teach me your statutes!

## Kyrie



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

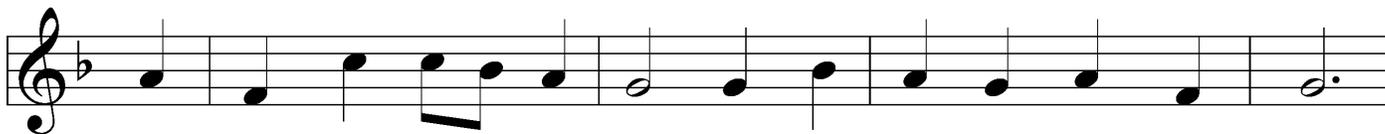
## Gloria in Excelsis



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 58:3-9a*

**A** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter fifty-eight.

“Why have we fasted, and you see it not?

Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’

Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.

Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.

Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself?

Is it to bow down his head like a reed,

and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him?

Will you call this a fast,

and a day acceptable to the LORD?

“Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

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?

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.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Choir Anthem**

**“Feed My Lambs”**

## Gradual

**P** Praise the Lord, all nations!

**C** Extol him, all peoples!

**P** For great is his steadfast love toward us,

**C** And the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

**P** Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

**C** Bring an offering, and come into his courts!

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 2:1-16*

**A** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter two.

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—  
these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse** - 

**G** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 5:13-20*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

### **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes 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. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

### Children's Message

#### Hymn of the Day

**#578 "Thy Strong Word"**

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;

Bright with Thine own holiness,

Glorious now, we press toward glory,

And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining

Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;

From the cross forever beameth

All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,

Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,

Throats that shout the hope that fills us,

Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send

Fill our songs with alleluias,

Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76

## Sermon

“Salt and Light”

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**G** Hear our prayer.

*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

## Lord's Prayer

**G** 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.

## Collect for the Word

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives

and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

### **The Closing Hymn**

### **#832 “Jesus Shall Reign”**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To Him shall endless prayer be made,  
And endless praises crown His head;  
His name like sweet perfume shall rise  
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er He reigns:  
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
And earth repeat the loud amen.

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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