

You Are a Light to Others

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 5, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for the Lord's Supper, perhaps with the help of page 129 in the front portion of the hymnary.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your Word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.
Amen.

HYMN

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word | #1

CONFESSION OF SIN

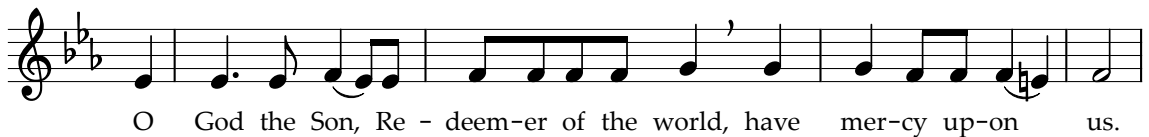
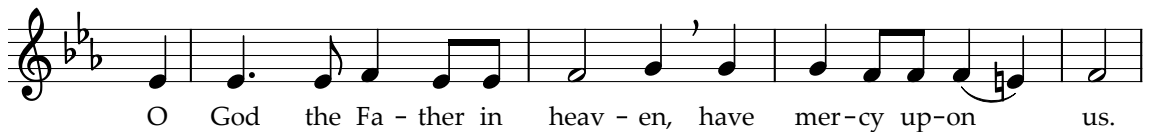
P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to you, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended you, our Lord and Maker, with our thoughts, words, and actions. You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity. Therefore we come before you with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

P: O merciful God, in this hour you still remind us of your fatherly goodness. On account of the promises in your Word, we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy. We implore you, dear Father—on the basis of the work of Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was handed over to death because of our sins and was raised to life again for our justification—forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full confidence.

C: **We therefore pray you, O Lord, through your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

HYMN

Kyrie



ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -
 friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is
 end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And
 peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

Service of the Word

The season of Epiphany is all about the light of Christ shining first into our hearts and then through our hearts into the world. Today's readings help us reflect on the ways we influence, or fail to influence, the people around us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we are light to those around us: Faithful God, you have called us to be a light shining in the world. Make us reflect the light of Christ, so that people see your love and goodness in our words and actions. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 2:9–12

The job of disciples is to live in a way that makes them and makes God look good in the eyes of others.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and temporary residents in the world, to abstain from the desires of the sinful flesh, which war against your soul. ¹² Live an honorable life among the Gentiles so that even though they slander you as evildoers, when they observe your noble deeds, they may glorify God on the day he visits us.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13–20

Disciples of Jesus have been made into people who make a difference in the world, not apart from God's law, but through his law.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its flavor, how will it become salty again? Then it is no good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way let your light shine in people's presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ Amen I tell you: Until heaven and earth pass away, not even the smallest letter, or even part of a letter, will in any way pass away from the Law until everything is fulfilled. ¹⁹ So whoever breaks 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 practices and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ Indeed I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and experts in the law, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Exodus 19:1–8a

Israel's obedience is not the method of becoming Yahweh's treasured possession. They already are and their obedience is how the world will notice.

In the third month after the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, on that same day of the month, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai. ²After they set out from Rephidim and came to the Wilderness of Sinai, they camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and to tell the people of Israel: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, then you will be my special treasure out of all the nations, although the entire earth is mine. ⁶You will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation.' These are the words that you are to speak to the Israelites."

⁷Moses went and summoned the elders of the people, and he set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. ⁸All the people answered together, "Everything that the Lord has said, we will do."

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | #65

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and

is seated at the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH


Service of the Sacrament


The members of King of Grace invite members of other ELS or WELS congregations to commune with us. We ask everyone else to please visit with our pastors before our next communion service.

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that we may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that we consider what we believe. From the words of Christ: "This is my body; this is my blood," we believe that Jesus Christ is himself present with his body and blood, as the words declare. From Christ's words "For the forgiveness of sins," we believe that Jesus Christ gives us his body and blood to actually deliver to us the forgiveness of all of our sins. And finally, we do as Christ commands when he says, "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "Do this in remembrance of me."

We also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and then love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end, may God the Father grant us his grace; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.


LORD'S PRAYER

P:  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.



C: A - - - - - men.

CONSECRATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND RECEPTION

P:  Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Let Me be Thine Forever | #427

THANKSGIVING HYMN

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee | #325

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Lord God Almighty, that you have refreshed us with these your life-giving gifts. We ask you—out of your mercy—to strengthen us through them in faith toward you and in eager love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P:  The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your Word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Preacher Pastor Bernt Tweit | **Liturgist** Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Violinist Vicar Max Kerr | **Pianist (Sunday)** Danica Kerr
Pianist (Monday) Andrew Shoop



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