

*Baptism Creates God-Pleasing Children*

First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 14, 2024

# **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, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

## *Service of Preparation*

*There is a wide gulf between God in his holiness and us in our sinfulness. We put on clean clothes to come to church, but more importantly we need a clean heart in the presence of the Lord. So at the entrance of our worship services we throw our sins into the baptismal font and receive forgiveness, and then enter upon the praises of God.*

### **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**

*Lord, to Thee I Make Confession* | #450

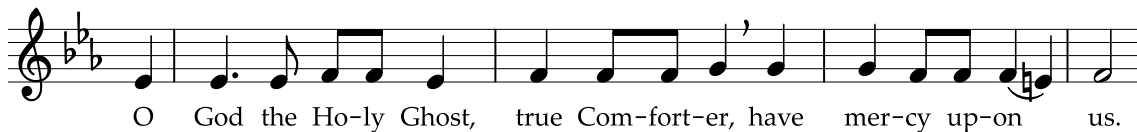
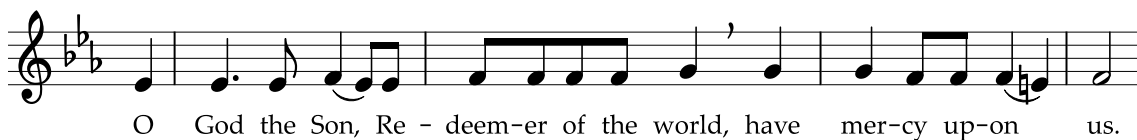
### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word; to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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.**

**ANTHEM**

*This Little Babe So Few Days Old*

*Follow along with the poetry at hymn #162*

# Service of the Word

*At the baptism of our Lord on the First Sunday after the Epiphany, God the Father said he was well pleased with his Son. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit in our baptisms, we also are children who can well please God and display his splendor through our lives. That's good news for people worried they could never please God.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we live as God's baptized children: Loving Father, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your dear Son. Thank you for making us your children by water and the Spirit. Keep us faithful to you throughout our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:1–6

*The work of God's servant is to achieve the glorious salvation God wants for all people. He is well pleased with Jesus who has accomplished this.*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

<sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says— he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength— <sup>6</sup> he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

## GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:4–11

*When we are baptized into the triune God's name, the Father also says about us, "This is my child whom I love, with you I am well pleased."*

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven 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; with you I am well pleased."

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### HYMN

*God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It* | #246

### SERMON

Romans 6:1–11

*Baptism into Christ is a union with his death and resurrection in which our old way of life dies and we are reborn to please God in new lives.*

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## HYMN

*Baptized into Thy Name Most Holy | #242: v.1*

# *Service of Thanksgiving*

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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.**

## 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](http://www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give).*



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## 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.

## HYMN

*He That Believes and Is Baptized* | #241

## PRAYER

**P:** Let us give thanks and pray: We thank you, Almighty God, that you have built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Cornerstone. Grant that we may be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. 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.

## HYMN

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* | #592

## 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.

*Meditate on how Psalm 2 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.*

**Preacher**..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit  
**Organist (Sunday)**.....Karen Merseth | **Choir Director** .....Allen Labitzky  
**Pianist (Monday)**.....Emily Bredeson



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School  
6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | [www.kingofgracelutheran.com](http://www.kingofgracelutheran.com)  
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky



