**8:00 & 10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**The Baptism of Our Lord**

**JANUARY 8, 2017**

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**Grace Lutheran Church**

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** . . . to all who worship with us today. We are happy that you are here with us. It is our prayer that our worship will be a blessing to you. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Hour is held after the Worship Service and we invite you to stay a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** is celebrated in our Worship Service today. This meal is intended for baptized Christians who recognize their sinfulness and their need for Christ’s forgiveness and strength, and desire to live a new life in Christ. We receive this meal recognizing the presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine. ***Children who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord’s Table with their parents for a blessing, but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.*** All those who commune are asked to indicate their participation by marking the appropriate column in the Red Attendance Books as they are passed at the beginning of the Worship Service.

**IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT** the wine is made available in both the individual glass and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the Common Cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, several of the individual Communion Glasses in each of the trays are filled with grape juice. They are found in the center of the tray.***  Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed in the pew. Please inform the Elder of your need.

**ATTENDANCE BOOKS *PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.***

**Fresh:***Behold, I am Making All Things New*

We have been made fresh in Christ. We can look at our sin and say we are old and spoiled, but because of the resurrection, we can know we are fresh. God is constantly renewing us to make us fresh.

**Today:** Before Jesus was baptized, John came proclaiming that the mighty God was coming, the ultimate judge would be here soon. “Repent! I am not worthy of untying his shoes.” And yet he baptized Jesus.

***(Asterisks (\*\*) indicate that the congregation stands)***

***\*\* THE OPENING HYMN*** To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord

***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.***

***The Savior came to be baptized***

***The Son of God in flesh disguised***

***To stand beneath the Father’s will***

***And all His righteousness fulfill.***

***As Jesus in the Jordan stood***

***And John baptized the Lamb of God,***

***The Holy Spirit, heavn’nly dove,***

***Descended on Him from above.***

***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.”***

***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.***

***Now rise faint hearts, be resolute;***

***This man is Christ, our substitute!***

***He was baptized in Jordan’s stream***

***Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.***

***\*\* THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP***

Pastor: We witness to all you do, Lord; in our communities, in our midst, in our world.

**People: Baptized to begin lives of faith,**

Pastor: That we would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.

**People: Baptized to serve,**

Pastor: That we would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.

**People: Baptized to speak,**

Pastor: That we would not play favorites but treat each as your Beloved.

**People: Baptized to do what is right,**

***\*\* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

***(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words***

***“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”)***

# *\*\* THE HYMN OF PRAISE* A Great and Mighty Wonder

***A great and mighty wonder, a full and holy cure:***

***The virgin bears the infant with virgin honor pure!***

**Refrain:**

**PROCLAIM THE SAVIOR’S BIRTH; “TO GOD ON HIGH**

**BE GLORY AND PEACE TO ALL THE EARTH!”**

***The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,***

***And cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.***

***Refrain***

***While thus they sing you Monarch, those bright angelic bands,***

***Rejoice, O vales and mountains, and oceans, clap your hands.***

***Refrain***

***Since all He comes to ransom, by all be He adored,***

***The infant born in Bethl’em the Savior and the Lord.***

***Refrain***

***All idols then shall perish and Satan’s lying cease,***

***And Christ shall raise His scepter, decreeing endless peace.***

***Refrain.***

***THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION***

*During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God’s Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.*

***(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God’s forgiveness)***

Pastor: O Almighty God,

**PEOPLE: WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS, OUR WORDS, AND OUR ACTIONS. YOU HAVE GIVEN US ALL THE THINGS WE NEED IN THIS LIFE, YET WE DEMAND MORE AND WASTE THE WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN TO US. WE HAVE TAKEN CREDIT FOR YOUR GIFTS AND BLESSINGS IN OUR LIVES. WE ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS. FOR OUR SELF-SERVING ACTIONS AGAINST YOU AND OUR NEIGHBORS. FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST HAVE MERCY ON US AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS. AMEN.**

Pastor: The Story of Jesus………..As your pastor called to this place, God has indeed heard your prayer and in the name and by the command of Jesus Christ Himself, it is my great privilege to announce to you all, your sins are forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**PEOPLE: AMEN.**

***\*\* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Pastor: 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.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

***THE FIRST LESSON*** Isaiah 42:1-9

*This passage in Isaiah shows God speaking into the pain of exile to send a servant who will bring justice, and not to Israel only but to all nations."*

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
    my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
    he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,  
    or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
    and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;  
    he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be discouraged  
    till he has established justice in the earth;  
    and the coastlands wait for his law.

**5**Thus says God, the Lord,  
    who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
    who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
    and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;  
    I will take you by the hand and keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the people,  
    a light for the nations,  
    to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
    from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord; that is my name;  
    my glory I give to no other,  
    nor my praise to carved idols.  
Behold, the former things have come to pass,  
    and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
    I tell you of them.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

***THE SECOND LESSON*** Romans 6:1-6

*Grace is enough. Our sin will not increase or make God’s grace more important.*

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

***\*\* THE HOLY GOSPEL*** Matthew 3:11-17

Before Jesus is baptized, John came proclaiming that the mighty God is coming, the ultimate judge will be here soon, “Repent! I am not worthy of untying his shoes.” And yet he baptized Jesus.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

**PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

***\*\* THE APOSTLES’ CREED***

***THE SERMON*** Pastor Cris Escher

**FRESH: Baptism, Fresh Everyday**

***\*\* THE OFFERTORY***

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with-in me.***

***Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.***

***Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.***

***\*\* THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

*(After each petition)*

Pastor: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

**PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

***\*\* THE LORD’S PRAYER***

***THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION***

Pastor: In broken bread and the cup that we share,

**PEOPLE: WE REMEMBER YOU, O LORD.**

Pastor: In broken bread and the cup that we share,

**PEOPLE: WE RECEIVE YOUR FORGIVENESS, O LORD.**

Pastor: In broken bread and the cup that we share,

**PEOPLE: WE RECEIVE THE TRUE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.**

Pastor: Come to us now, O Lord, in this bread and cup, that we may taste once again of Your grace and mercy. Strengthen and renew us for service in Your kingdom, that we may show forth Your glory in all the world.

***\*\* THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION***

***THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS***

“Your Table I Approach”

***Your table I approach; dear Savior, hear my prayer.***

***Oh, let no unrepented sin prove hurtful to me there.***

***Lord, I confess my sins and mourn their wretched bands;***

***A contrite heart is sure to find forgiveness at Your hands.***

***Your body and Your blood, once slain and shed for me,***

***Are taken at Your table, Lord, in blest reality.***

***Search not how this takes place, this wondrous mystery;***

***God can accomplish vastly more than what we think could be.***

***Oh, grant most blessed Lord, that earth and hell combined***

***May not about this sacrament raise doubt within my mind.***

***Oh, may I never fail to thank You day and night***

***For Your true body and true blood, O God my peace and light.***

What Feast of Love

***What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?***

***What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?***

***This, this is Christ the King, the Bread come down from heaven.***

***Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given.***

***What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?***

***What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?***

***This, this is Christ the King, the Son come down from heaven.***

***Oh, see and hear and sing! The word of God is given!***

***What wine of love is offered here, what holy drink from heaven?***

***What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?***

***This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.***

***Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!***

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

***Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,***

***Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid***

***Star of the East, the horizon adorning***

***Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.***

***Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;***

***Low lies His head with the beast of the stall;***

***Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,***

***Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.***

***Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion,***

***Fragrance of Edom and off’rings divine,***

***Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,***

***Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?***

***Vainly we offer each ample oblation,***

***Vainly with gifts would His favor secure?***

***Richer by far is the heart’s adoration;***

***Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.***

***Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,***

***Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;***

***Star of the East, the horizon adorning,***

***Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.***

***\*\* THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING***

***\*\* THE BLESSING***

Pastor: May our Great God, who in humbleness came as one of us, bless you and keep you, that you may know that He has made you righteous not alone, but together.

**PEOPLE: AMEN.**

***\*\* THE CLOSING HYMN*** As With Gladness Men of Old (LW 75)

***As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;***

***As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;***

***So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by thee.***

***As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,***

***There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;***

***So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.***

***Holy Jesus, ev’ry day keep us in the narrow way;***

***And when early things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last***

***Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.***

***In the heav’nly country bright need they no created light;***

***Thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;***

***There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.***

***\*\* THE SENDING***

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

***Today* *January 8, 2017***

1st Worship 8:00 am

Bible Study and Sunday School 9:15 am

2nd Worship 10:30 am

Fellowship Immediately following 2nd service

Korean Church Worship 1:00 pm

***This Week***

Via de Cristo Reunion @ Bock’s home Monday, 6:30 pm

Adopt-a-Mile (Off site) Tuesday, 9:30 am

Surviving Spouses Tuesday.12:30 pm

Grace BOD Tuesday, 5:15 pm

Mahjongg Wednesday, 12:00 noon

Bible Study @Perkin’s Restaurant Thursday, 7:30 am

Korean Church Prayer Meeting Saturday, 6:00 am

***SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS*** will resume today, January 8, 2017 at 9:15 pm. Students from grades 4 through 7 will be together in one class taught by Barbara Ruzicka.  We will be using the children’s room.  Friends are welcome.  Decisions on the start of a Confirmation Class will be discussed with Pastor Cris soon. And of course, all adults are invited to participate in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

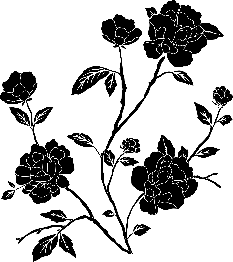
***THE FLOWERS*** adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of Jesus, our Savior.

***BIRTHDAY GREETINGS*** Sherri Blizzard & Judy Fredrick, 1/8; Doris Vollman, 1/13; Patti Williams, 1/14.

***ANNIVERSARIES*** No anniversaries listed this week.

***If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please drop us a note***

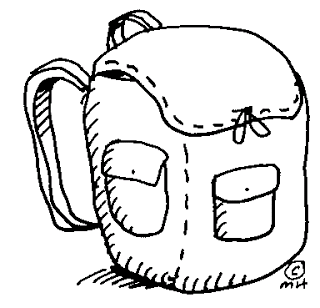
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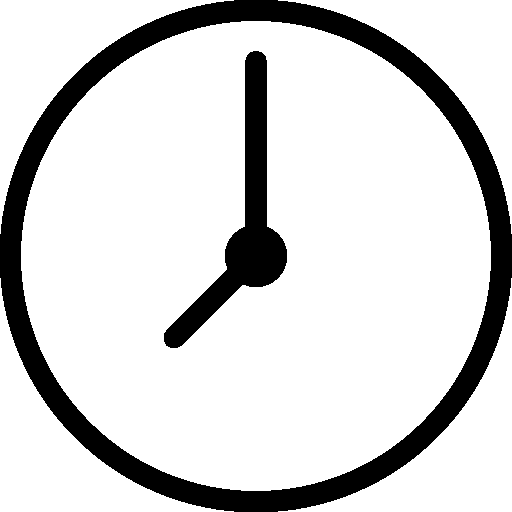
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**FLOWER CHART**

A new flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to order flowers to adorn the alter for a specific Sunday, please write your name on the appropriate line. The cost per Sunday is $27.00. We thank you for your help.

***MOPS ARE BACK AND ARE LOOKING FOR MOPPETS*** We need people to help with the children the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 am. If you are interested or know anyone who might be interested, please contact Bonnie Hawthorne at 561/906-7867.

***THE BACKPACK PROGRAM*** Backpack is up and running for this school year. Check the bulletin board for items needed, or speak with Carol Coffman or Leigh Liagre.

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**Sunday Worship Schedule Change**

**Beginning Today, January 8th, 2017**

1st Worship Service—8:00 am

Sunday School and Bible Study—9:15 am

2nd Worship Service—10:30 am

Fellowship—Immediately follows 2nd Worship Service

**www.glcpsl.org**

Remember to check out our website and follow us on Facebook. They’re both “works-in-progress”, but the calendar and information on our website is updated constantly.