

FESTIVAL OF EPIPHANY

JANUARY 5, 2024



**THE GIFT OF GOD
IS FOR ALL PEOPLE**



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Palmaire Ave
Glendale, Arizona 85301
tel: 623-937-2010
email: info@graceglendale.org
web: <https://www.graceglendale.org>



WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

Rev. Mark Jacobson	x321
pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org	
Rev. Jasper Sellnow	x303
pastorsellnow@graceglendale.org	
Principal Joel Walker	x302
jwalker@graceglendale.org	
Office Manager, Debbie Petersen	x322
officemanager@graceglendale.org	
School Office Manager, Monica Assaker	x326
massaker@graceglendale.org	
Church Secretary	
secretary@graceglendale.org	

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Jacobson

Liturgist: Pastor Sellnow

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Eoghan Hill / Cash Hill

10:30 AM – Dean Rovey/ Ryan Jacobson/ Owen Jacobson

Organist: Michael Wilde

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Mark Breiling

10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

ABOUT THE THEME

On Christmas Eve the angel told the shepherds, “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10). One wonders if those words struck those Jewish shepherds as odd. For centuries, God had given special attention to one nation—Israel. There were Jewish religious leaders who taught that only members of that special people would be saved. Not according to the Christmas angel! The birth of the Savior was good news for all people.

Today we celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany. Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “reveal.” When the Savior was born, he was first revealed to Israelites: the shepherds, Simeon, Anna. But today, we see the Lord miraculously guides foreigners across countless miles so the Savior could be revealed to them as well. How did the magi respond? “They were overjoyed” (Matthew 2:10). The Festival of Epiphany is sometimes known as “The Gentiles’ Christmas.” We Gentiles (non-Jews) rejoice in the good news that this Jewish baby is not just a gift for the Jews. He is a gift for all people—the Savior of the world.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 1 (CW 154)

HYMN: COME, YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES RAISING

CW 362

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

ABSOLUTION

CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.
Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

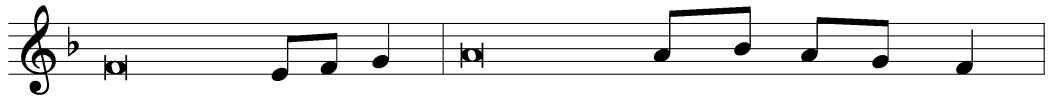
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH

CW 157



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



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



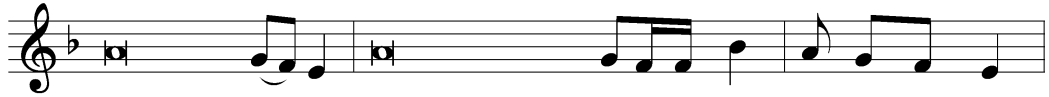
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



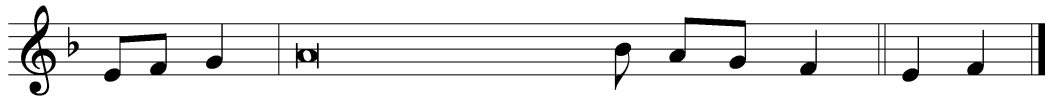
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

1 Kings 10:1–9

An African queen visits Israel to test the wisdom of King Solomon. The result of her visit: she ends up praising the LORD for his love. The gift of God is for all people.

¹When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions.

²Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. ³Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. ⁴When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, ⁵the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

⁶She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. ⁸How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! ⁹Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MEN'S CHORUS

“O Come Let Us Sing”

SECOND READING

Acts 13:46–49

The focus of St. Paul’s ministry would be to share the gift of eternal life with the Gentiles.

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

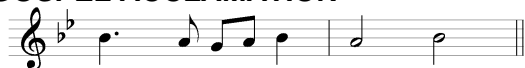
⁴⁹The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

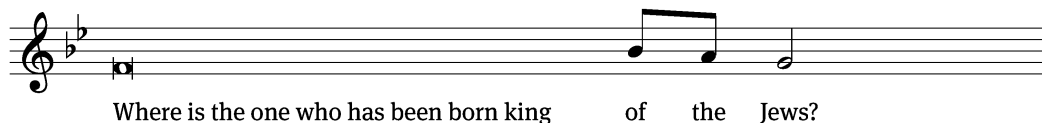
Matthew 2:2



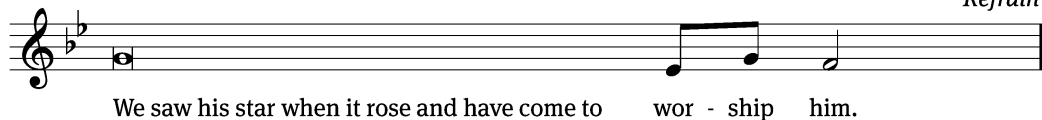
Refrain



Tone



Refrain



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1–12

The Lord miraculously led Magi across many hundreds of miles of difficult terrain, so that they might worship the child who offered the gift of salvation.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: HOW LOVELY SHINES THE MORNING STAR CW 370

SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

JESUS IS THE SAVIOR FOR ALL NATIONS

Please stand

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 truly 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.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special Intercessions

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please fill out the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time!
Remember to mark if you are communing.

Please stand

PREFACE

CW 165

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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

CW 167



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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace.

Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

CW 169



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.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*In **Holy Communion** we receive the assurance of forgiveness through the body and blood of our Savior. By sharing in this Sacrament, we also express our complete agreement with one another according to the teachings of the Bible. If you have not joined our fellowship (**Wisconsin Synod**), please permit us to tell you about our Lutheran Christian faith before you partake of this Holy Supper so that you can judge for yourself whether there is complete agreement between us.*

DIST. HYMN: HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE YOU FACE TO FACE

CW 660

Please stand

THANKSGIVING & PROCLAMATION

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. 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.
Amen.

LESSING

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN: BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

CW 954

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Worship: 8:00 AM – 123 – 10:30 AM – 151

New Years Eve: 133 – New Year's Eve Communion: 88

Song Fest Bible Class: 108

HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Karen Barber – 3512 E Helena Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85032-2040

Don Bollmeier – 12610 W Flower St, Avondale, AZ 85392

Carlene Junas – 6735 W Golden Ln #209, Peoria, AZ 85345-4372

Tracey Moreland – 6801 N Ocotillo Rd Apt 1089, Glendale, AZ 85303-3111

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The December issue of *Forward in Christ* and January Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. Thank you to the crew that cleaned the church last week. There is no cleaning crew scheduled for January 11. (Team #2 – Bales – is scheduled for 1/18)

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS... Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost \$35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the collection plate.

SCRIPTURAL GREETING CARDS... are available for purchase before Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. Cards are \$6.00 per box or \$1.00 per card. Proceeds support the ministry of Grace Ladies' Aid.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

TODAY : WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM; Grace Groups sign-ups

MON - **EPIPHANY**; No School; Faculty In-Service; Choir, 7 PM; Annual Reports Due.

TUE - Back to School! Bible Class, 2:00 PM *FH*

WED - ABC Breakfast at Village Inn, 8:30 AM; Bible Class, 7 PM *FH*

THU - School Board, 6:30 PM

FRI - Bible Class, 10:00 AM

SUN - **WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM** – Officer Installation both services
Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM; Ladies Aid, 11:30 AM *FH*;
Sunday School Teacher Meeting 11:30 AM

(FH = in Fellowship Hall)

THE ABC... Adult Breakfast and Coffee - is a group of Grace members and friends who enjoy gathering for breakfast two or three Wednesdays each month. We begin with a devotion, great conversations, and breakfast! Everyone is welcome and we all pay for our own meals. This week, ABC will meet on Wednesday, January 8, 8:30 am at Village Inn, 9490 W Northern Ave. Please sign up by sending a text or email to Pat Walker, Mobile 480-717-0131, patwalker1950@gmail.com.



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

**Spring Session
is Coming Soon!**

Sign-ups begin today for Grace Groups. Our spring session starts the week of Feb. 2. Join a group today and spend time with your fellow members in a small group setting for fellowship and a deeper dive into God's word. What did people say about the Fall 2024 session?

- *"It was a great way to connect with people outside of the church environment."*
- *"It was a great way to reinforce and dig deeper into the sermon."*
- *"The bonds we built with the other members of the group were meaningful."*

Stop by the sign-up table in the Narthex to learn more or to start a new group and serve as a facilitator.

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP...



MEN OF HIS WORD 2025 CONFERENCE...

Saturday, January 18 at the **Desert Willow Conference Center** in Phoenix – **7:30 am – 4 pm.**

Join us for a day of worship, Bible Study, presentations, encouragement, food, fellowship and fun – not dwelling on problems, but finding renewed

strength and joy through a study of God's Word and fellowship with other Christian men. For more information, pick up forms available in the narthex or go online to www.menofhisword.org/phoenix.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Need amounts are based on a goal of **\$968,775.00** by **6/30/2025**.

Week ending 12/29/2024:

Weekly Need:	21,525.00
Weekly Actual:	27,694.00
Weekly +/-:	+6,169.00

YTD 7/1/2023 through 12/29/2024:

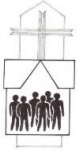
YTD Need:	480,250.00
YTD Actual:	422,654.54
YTD +/-:	-57,595.46

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE...

Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the graceglendale.org site with the "Click Here to Donate Online" button. A phone app is also available for donations:

install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement and search Organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*





Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

THE SAVIOR FOR ALL NATIONS

Matthew 2:1-12

What are some reasons for people to come to worship? What becomes the one reason for believers to continue to come to worship?

In what way(s) are the Bethlehem shepherds and the Magi from the East a good representation for, “the good news of great joy for all the people?”

Compare the sermon from the Bethlehem angel to the “sermon” from the Jerusalem Herod. Confer with Philippians 1:15-18.

What effects did these sermons have on the shepherds, the magi and the residents of Jerusalem? And, of course, you?

“No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand” (CW 510 In Christ Alone). Reflect on this hymn line, the ignorance of the magi and all the evil that may or may not be after you too.
