

EXTRA Grace Notes

Grace Lutheran Church, 2006 60th Street, Kenosha, Wisconsin



February 7, 2021

Gathering Liturgy for Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

C **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

P How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Oh, For 1,000 Tongues to Sing" (ELW #886) vv. 1 & 6

1 *Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing*

*my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!*

6 *To God all glory, praise, and love*

*be now and ever given
by saints below and saints
above,
the church in earth and heaven.*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD (ELW p. 148)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C *Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the
world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father: receive our
prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy
Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Readings for Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21–31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
Scarcely are they planted,
scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God?”
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD
shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 147:1–11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!
²**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**
³The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
⁴**The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.**
⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God’s wisdom.
⁶**The LORD lifts up the lowly
but casts the wicked to the ground.**
⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,
⁸**who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

⁹God provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**
¹¹but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God’s steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.

What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.

To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law.

To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Gospel: Mark 1:29–39

As soon as *Jesus and the disciples* left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not



permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you."

He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do."

And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Pastor Barker's Sermon on Mark 1:29–20

Several weeks ago I had several people ask me to, "Say a prayer for the Packers". Now, this could be taken one of two ways. It could be seen as a pious request or it could be seen as a sign of doubt and desperation at the Packers chances.

I imagine many of us have made prayers for things that we know are trivial—let my team win, let me win the lotto, let me be a movie star or professional athlete.

And we probably also learned that these prayers are not answered.

Now, these are rather trivial examples I have shared, but what about when we are praying for something important and that prayer is not answered? The single most frequent question I have received over the last year is why is God not answering my prayer that Coronavirus will go away.

Our passage this morning will help us answer this question. So let's dive into our passage.

We are picking up in the first chapter of Mark's gospel,

where we have been all of January. Two weeks ago, Jesus gave his first sermon and we heard him proclaim that God's Kingdom is near. Then last week, we saw Jesus enact the nearness of God's kingdom by freeing a man from demonic possession. This exorcism showed us that one part of God's Kingdom is freedom from that which binds us.

Immediately following this exorcism, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew where Simon's mother-in-law was bedridden with a fever. Jesus proceeds to miraculously heal her.

That evening, after Jesus that morning had exorcised a demon and afternoon had healed Simon's mother-in-law, the people of Capernaum brought all of their sick and demon-possessed to the door of Simon's home for Jesus to heal them and exorcise their demons.

These healings teach us a second part of what it means for God's Kingdom to come near. God's kingdom is a kingdom

where sickness and injury are healed.

I love this about God's kingdom. I want healing for myself and others.

And I want all of you to commit this to memory this week that God's kingdom is place of liberation and freedom and God's kingdom is a place of healing. As we continue through Mark's gospel we will see more parts of God's kingdom.

God's people have historically taken the healing work of God's kingdom very seriously. Our hospitals in southeastern Wisconsin are St. Catherine's, Wheaton Franciscan, St. Luke's, and All Saints. Christians founded these hospitals and many others throughout our country and ran them for many years.

I think of our retired nurses here at Grace, Nancy and Patsy, and this passage and history reminds me of the holiness of the call they lived out in their careers.

And our church has taken this call seriously to be a place of

healing. We have had social workers sign people up for health insurance here at Grace, we have had nurses to basic health screens at Grace Welcome Center, we have been able to get many people dental access through Familia Dental doing sign-ups at Infant Moses and Grace Welcome Center, and our dear Saint Lorraine used to do basic check ups each week at Infant Moses with the mothers and newborns each each week.

So Jesus is miraculously curing all the sick in Capernaum and exorcising those with demons. And then, early the next morning Jesus goes off to pray. This leads to a bit of a problem because all of the healings the night before have caused quite a stir. People want to find Jesus. There is so much urgency around finding Jesus that the disciples have to “hunt” for Jesus.

Part of why people want to find Jesus is because he has become famous in the course of a day. But we can also assume that as Jesus’s fame spread more people wanted to be healed. Those that were there the night before think about a friend or relative in the next town over that needed healing.

When the disciples find Jesus they he tells them that they are going to be going on to the

neighboring towns in Galilee. Jesus is not going to go back to Capernaum even though he is sought after.

Jesus leaving Capernaum feels so real in our own faith journey. At points it feels like we are there that day when Jesus exorcised the demon and healed Simon’s mother-in-law and at



other times it feels like we are living in the day when Jesus left Capernaum to go to the next village in Galilee.

This last year I have felt this acutely—it is amazing to watch God work through our pantry and Infant Moses--and it’s also been so heart wrenching to have families go through deaths this year when we can’t do funerals like we normally would or have family members in the hospital or nursing homes when visits can’t be made.

God’s kingdom both feels tremendously near and also tremendously far away.

And this is what it means to live in this moment when Jesus says the Kingdom of God has come near. If God’s kingdom was FULLY here if God’s kingdom has come and not just come near there would be no more illness, no more death, no more bondage to evil.

So, we live in a world that still has death and sin.

But, it’s important to remember that God’s kingdom is near. Near enough that we see God’s kingdom regularly. We see our members here at Grace healed miraculously and healed through medical professionals faithfully living out their vocations. We see those who are in bondage released—especially true at our NA meetings. We see the hungry fed, another manifestation of God’s kingdom we will see in Mark’s gospel. We see the sinner forgiven and the outcast welcome, other signs of God’s kingdom.

Let me close an invitation. This morning I invite each of us to the continued work of God’s kingdom come near—a kingdom of healing and liberation—while also knowing that it has not yet fully arrived.

Amen.

Creed, Prayers, and Communion Liturgy

HYMN OF THE DAY “Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word” (ELW #663) vv. 1 & 4

*1 Spread, oh, spread, almighty Word,
spread the reign of God the Lord.
Send forth our Creator’s call,
Heaven’s gifts extend to all.*

*4 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
rouse to action heart and mind;
let the gathering nations all
see your light and heed your call.*

APOSTLES’ CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☩ I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYERS “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (ELW #752)

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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PRAYERS

P Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all wearied by life’s burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you, especially:

- Mary Andrews (Welcome Center volunteer from St. Anthony’s)
- Dawn Bench (Welcome Center volunteer)
- Jackie Brichacek (Nancy’s sister-in-law)
- Jean Boothe (Grace soup kitchen supervisor)
- Hank Buehrens
- Andrew Calvert
- Pat Calvert
- Barb Caputo
- Holly Cummings
- Eric Dangerfield (Carolyn Reynold’s boyfriend)

- Alyssa and Aaron Dell
 - Connie, mother of Welcome Center volunteer Lynda Eirich
 - Gregory Foster
 - Steve Gapko
 - Shirleen Gulick
 - Sydney Houston
 - David Kramer
 - David Kristopeit (Nancy’s brother-in-law)
 - Dorothy Keuffer
 - Dean O’Hanlon
 - Carolyn Reynold’s children Eddie, Santino, and Lytoshia
 - Cynthia Schwartz (Norma’s daughter)
 - Marcia Swanson
 - Joyce Swift
 - Helen Usinger
 - Linda Wadham
 - Florence and Jacqueline Walker (Carolyn’s sisters)
 - Dottie Watts
 - Kristi Weiss (Rollie’s daughter),
- let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For this congregation: for outreach and social ministries centered here (*especially...*); for parish nurses and visitors; for ministries of companionship and support, for the young people in this place who open us to new understandings, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Other intercessions may be offered here.

P In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING “We Give Thee but Thine Own” (ELW #686)

*1 We give thee but thine own,
whate’er the gift may be;*

*all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING. SONG “We Come to You for Healing, Lord” (ELW #617) vv. 1 & 5

1 *We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.*

5 *We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.*

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DIALOGUE & PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created

all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

INVITATION TO LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 154)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG “Amazing Grace” (ELW #779) vv. 1 & 5

1 *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see.*

5 *When we’ve been there 10,000 years, bright, shining as the sun, We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise Than when we’ve first begun.*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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Book Study Digs into Prodigal Son Parable

Our own David Underwood and Rev. Barker will be leading a book study on Henri Nouwen’s *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. Please buy the book and start reading.

You can find links to the book on amazon and Barnes & Noble on our Facebook page.

Our study will be in four parts starting Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m. and will

continue the following three Thursdays. Please join us on Zoom for this great opportunity!

Interrupters Seek to Break Cycle of Violence

We are happy to host a new community group meeting at Grace over the noon hour on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:30.

Kenosha Police Officer Jeff Wamboldt is helping organize the group, and explains, “The group does not have a formal name yet but I am calling us ‘The Interrupters.’ The group is made up of concerned citizens of Kenosha who want to put an end to violence. If or when a violent incident occurs whereby retaliation is likely, a member of the

interrupters will get involved and try to break the cycle of violence by preventing the retaliation using kindness, love and reasoning.”

This program is patterned after similar groups used in Chicago and Madison. Meetings are held in the narthex and membership is open to the public.

For further information, you may contact Officer Wamboldt at (262) 657-3937 or jjw338@kenoshapolice.com

Grace Receipts: January 31, 2021

General offering	\$ 280.00
Non-member contributions:	
Designated for Welcome Center	\$ 125.00
Non-designated	\$ 1,200.00
Amistad Cristiana building use.....	\$ 800.00
Parking lot use.....	\$ 40.00
Honorarium of A. Berg: Welcome Ctr.	\$ 250.00
<u>Minus banking fees</u>	<u>\$ (57.80)</u>
Total	\$ 2,637.20
Grace weekly budget in 2020:	\$2,943.20

Notes: Nominal banking fees are charged on financial transactions made through DonorBox on Grace’s web site.

A gift was made to Grace Lutheran Church in honor of County Supervisor Andy Berg, designated for the Welcome Center.

Please remember to mail in your offering checks to Grace if you are not worshipping here in person. You can also contribute electronically through the “Donations” link at GraceKenosha.com.

Grace Lutheran Church
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<https://www.GraceKenosha.com>

Worship services livestreamed at www.facebook.com/GraceElcaKenosha/

Pastor Jonathan Barker: jonathan.w.barker17@gmail.com 626-864-6404

Church office: graceoffice@wi.rr.com 262-654-9143

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday

Annual Congregational Meeting Convenes February 7

It's time for Grace congregation's annual meeting very soon. Your church council has scheduled the meeting this Sunday, February 7 after the worship service.

As we have been doing during the COVID-19 health crisis, this meeting will be conducted on Zoom.

To join the Zoom Meeting on line, our tinyurl is



<https://bit.ly/38Gkngn> . The passcode is: 7WfefC .

We will post a link on our

Facebook page and with the newsletter posts on our website.

You can also phone in at 646-876-9923. You will need to then enter the meeting ID and passcode. The meeting ID is 685 749 8173, and the passcode by phone is

834854. (Note: You can skip the participant ID prompt by pressing the # key.)

The annual report was included in last week's *Grace Notes*, which you will find posted at www.gracekenosha.com .

New Member Classes

Pastor Barker will lead new member classes at 11:00 a.m on Sundays, February 14 through March 7.

Ash Wednesday Worship, Live or by Video

Grace invites you to center yourself for the start of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 17. You may join us live on Facebook at

1:00 p.m., or tune in on either our Facebook page or at www.gracekenosha.com any time thereafter.