

Jesus Begins His Ministry

January 18, 2026

Prelude & Entrance Hymn

301

1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no

heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly

All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her

heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

Greeting

P: In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

A: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

A: He comes to us

C: We who are not wise.

A: He comes to us

C: We who are not powerful

A: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord has come upon us.

Hymn of Praise

308 *Verses 1 & 4*



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you

L: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, in the mystery of Your wisdom You sent your Son to teach, heal and proclaim the truth of the Kingdom of God. As he called his Disciples to follow, learn and serve, so call and empower us through the Spirit that we will be faithful in our discipleship and our witness. Through our diverse gifts may we, as one Church, proclaim the truth of Your Kingdom in this age. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 8:9-9:1-4

Those of you who are not God's people can go ahead and come together to make your plans about what to do. You can get yourselves ready to act. But it will not do any good. God is not with *you*. God is with *us*. I am God's prophet and, when God's Spirit was on me, God warned me not to be like those other people. God told me that not everyone is out to get me, like *they* tell me that they are. God told me not to be afraid, like *they* try to tell me to be. God told me not to worry about the future, like *they* try to tell me I really should. For, God is holy, and *we* only need to focus on God. God is *our* sanctuary, but a stone that *others* trip over. *We* will not worry. *We* will wait for the Lord. Those who look for teaching from gods who chirp and go "blah, blah, blah," will stay in the dark. *They* will stay hungry and worried. *They* will only get mad and be disappointed with their gods. *They* will look at the sky and *they* will look at the earth and *they* will be depressed by what they see. But God's people will be in the light. They will have freedom from worry and concern. They will be as joyful as when a birthday cake is cut, and everyone gets a piece. Anything that brings them down, God will lift up, and God's people will be free.

R: *The Word of the Lord.* C: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

ELW Hymn 720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Second Lesson

1 John 2

John (not John the Baptist) writes: My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus, Christ, "The Righteous One;" and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also the whole world. And if we may obey his commandments, we know that we have come to know him. Whoever says, "I know him," and is not keeping his commandments is a liar, and in such a person "The Truth" does not exist. On the other hand, whomever may obey his word, truly, in this person,

the wholistic love of God is perfected. Whoever says, "I obligate myself to remain in Christ," then, as Christ walked about, so this person should walk about, too – and this is how we will know that we are in Christ.

Beloved, I am not writing you a new commandment, but reiterating an old commandment that you have had from the beginning - the old commandment is the Word that you have heard. Yet, I am writing you a new commandment that is true in Christ and in you - that the darkness is being eclipsed and "The True Light" shines. Whoever says, "I am in 'The Light,'" and goes about hating a brother or sister is really still in "The Darkness." On the other hand, whoever loves a brother or sister lives in "The Light" and in such a person there is no cause for someone to them and lose their faith. But whoever hates another believer is really in "The Darkness," is walking in "The Darkness," and does not know the way to go, because the darkness brings on blindness.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon & Verse

Refrain (sing twice)



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1. When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way. Still, You're there right be-



side me. And no-thing will I fear As long as You are near;



Please be near me to the end.

(to refrain)



2. I will not for-get Your love for me and yet, My heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus be my guide, And hold me to Your side, And



I will love you to the end.

(to refrain)

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fourth chapter!

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Begins the Work of His Ministry

But having heard that John the Baptizer had been handed over to King Herod and put into prison, Jesus withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." [Isaiah 9:2]

From that point on Jesus began preaching and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has come near."

Walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen.

And he said to them, "Get behind me and I will make you 'Fisherman of People.'"

They immediately let go of their nets and they followed him.

Going on from there, Jesus saw two other brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother, John, in the boat with their father, Zebedee. They were mending their nets. And Jesus called them and they immediately left their boat and their father and followed him.

Then Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

So, his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick - those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics - and he cured them. Great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Apostles Creed

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.

Prayers of the Church

Passing of the Peace

Offering & Offertory

691

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

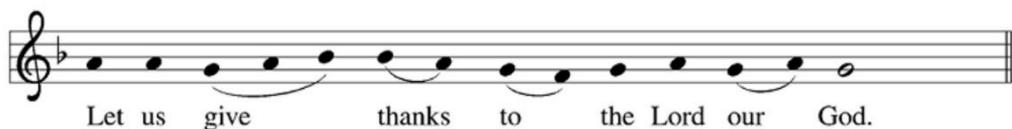
Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray:

C: Accept, O Lord, these gifts that we bring in gratitude this day; offerings from the abundant blessings we have received. May they be pleasing in your sight, that you will continue to look kindly on us and our needs, and that they may serve the need of manifesting your Kingdom in this age. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

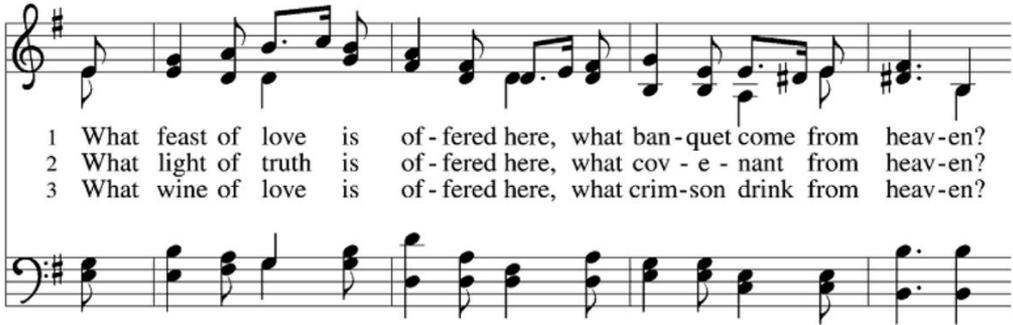


The Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution Hymns

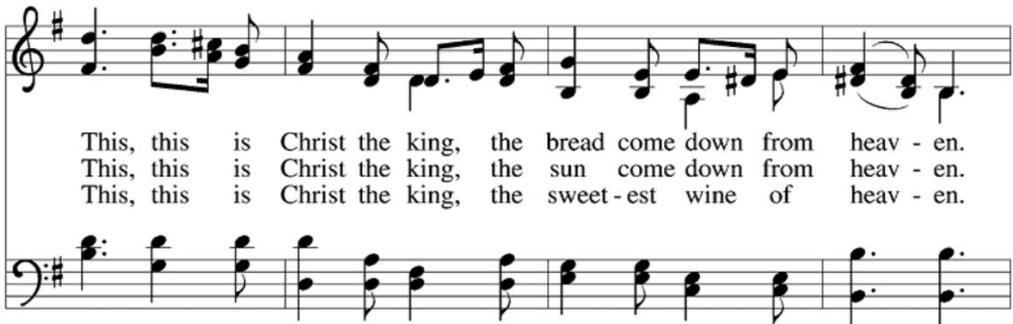
487, 465, 496



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were

gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from

all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all; one cup of

bless - ing which we bless, and we, though man - y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain
 wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

1. You call to us, Lord Je - sus, as once in Gal - i - lee
 2. You came to preach de - liv - erance, to set the cap - tives free,
 3. You sum - mon us to vis - ions of what this world can be,
 4. The path you bid us fol - low is not an eas - y road,

You called to James and An - drew, "Come now and fol - low me."
 to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed, to make the sight - less see.
 of hope and peace and free - dom for all hu - man - i - ty.
 and doubt or pain or con - flict will some - times be our load.

They left their nets and fol - lowed, and did not look be - hind;
 Your min - is - try of mer - cy and jus - tice is our task;
 For jus - tice we will la - bor for ev - ery hu - man soul
 Lord, grant us strength and cour - age to walk the way you trod,

Lord, we like them will fol - low, our life in you to find.
 help us like true dis - ci - ples to do the work you ask.
 till greed and ha - tred van - ish, and hu - man - kind is whole.
 till we be - hold in glo - ry the ra - diant face of God.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, January 18

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Classes

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, January 20

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study & Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – hybrid

3:00 p.m. Bible Study 101 Lite w/ Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/ Pastor Chris – online

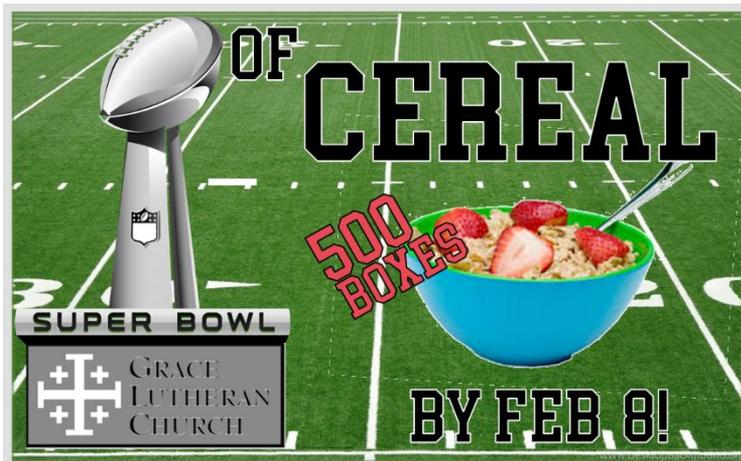
Wednesday, January 21

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group

Sunday, January 25

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation Classes



We are now collecting cereal box donations for our annual Super Cereal Bowl of Caring ministry! Each year, Grace collects cereal boxes to donate to the Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake. Help us reach our goal of 500 boxes by Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th!

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Music Director*

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