

The **Fourth Sunday** after Epiphany

February 1, 2026
Grace Lutheran Church

Prelude
Entrance Hymn

645

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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

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1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious Father, we give you thanks that your Son was a faithful example of the unexpected righteousness he teaches us to follow. As we struggle with the challenges of hearing and living your Word, give us the Spirit, that we will love as He loved, give as He gave, welcome as He welcomed, and pray as He prayed. For He is our Lord and Master and in His name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 58:1-9

God says to his prophet - Shout out! Do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the ancestors of the great and faithful patriarch Jacob, their sins – these people who day after day “seek” me and who “delight” to know my ways – Hah! - as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not actually forsake the ordinance of their God - these people who ask me for “righteous” judgments - these people who “delight” to draw near to God, but, then whine, "Why do we fast, but you do not see us, God? And why when we humble ourselves, God does not notice?" Hah! - these people serve their own interest on their “fast day,” and these people do not treat their workers fairly. Hah! - these people fast only to quarrel and to fight and to beat on each other with their wicked fists. Such “fasting” as these people do today will not make their voices heard on high. Because – well, you tell me - is this the kind of fast that I choose? Is the fasting I ask of you a day to “humble yourself” by bowing down your head like a cattail in the wetland? And, do I want you lying around in sackcloth and ashes? Will you really call *this* a “fast?” Will you really call *this* “a day acceptable to the Lord?!?”

Now, tell me, isn’t the fast that *I* choose the one where the bonds of injustice are loosed? Isn’t the fast *I* choose the one where the ropes that bind that yoke on your shoulders is undone? The one where every yoke is actually broken. The one where the oppressed go free? The one where you share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house, clothe the naked, and where you keep one another in mind rather than having no concern for each other?!?

When you decide to really fast then: your “Light” will break forth like the dawn; your “Healing” will come quickly; your “Vindicator” will lead

you and the glory of the Lord will also be your rear guard. When you decide to really fast you will call on the Lord and the Lord will actually answer you; you will cry for help, and the Lord will actually say, “Here I am!”

If you remove this “yoke” that you have placed on yourselves by the judgmental pointing of the finger at each other and by the slandering of each other and, instead, you offer your food to those who are hungry, and, instead, you care for one another, then your “Light” will rise in the darkness and transform the depressing gloom into the warmth and brightness of noontime. Then, the Lord will guide you continually and give you what you need to make it through the difficult times, and strengthen your core, and you will be peaceful and able to provide for yourself and others. You will be like a devastated city whose ancient ruins are rebuilt. You will restore the crumbling foundations laid by builders many generations ago. You will be called “the repairer of the breach” which had formerly let the enemy in to devastate. You will be “the restorer of neighborhoods” for life to be lived again.

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

Psalm

112

Tune: O God Our Help in Ages Past ELW632

1. Happy is he that fears the Lord,
And follows his commands;
Who lends the poor without
reward,
Or gives with lib'ral hands.

3. In times of general distress
Some beams of light shall shine,
To show the world his
righteousness,
And give him peace divine.

2. No evil tidings shall surprise
His well-established mind;
His soul to God his refuge flies,
And leaves his fears behind.

4. His works of piety and love
Remain before the Lord;
Honor on earth and joys above
Shall be his sure reward.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Paul writes to the church in Corinth saying: When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For, I decided to only tell you about Jesus Christ and his crucifixion. And, so, I came to you in weakness and in fear and in trembling. And my teaching and my preaching were not full of persuasive wisdom but full of the Spirit and Power so that your faith would not be in *my* wisdom but only in *God's* power.

But, make no mistake about it, I do speak wisdom when I am among the faithful who are ready for something more! Yet, the wisdom I speak is not the wisdom of today. And it's not the wisdom of today's leaders. For, they are being undermined even now! The wisdom I speak is God's wisdom. And this wisdom is really a mystery made to be kept secretly hidden, for, it is a wisdom that God laid out before the ages for our glory. None of today's leaders get this - which is also God's plan because if they had gotten it while Jesus was with them, they would not have crucified the "Lord of Glory." Somewhere in scripture it might even tell us: *"Things the eye did not see, and the ear did not hear, and the human heart did not come up with – things God now has at hand for the ones who love him completely"*-- these things God has revealed through The Spirit, for The Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For, we human beings only know what is truly human because of the human spirit that is within us. So also, no one comprehends what is truly God's except The Spirit of God.

But consider this. We did not receive "the spirit of the world" in our baptism. Instead, we received The Spirit that is from God and therefore, we may now understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we may now speak of these things in words that are not taught by human wisdom, but taught by The Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are "spiritual" because we all have The Spirit. But, on the other hand, the "natural" person who has not received The Spirit cannot know the gifts of God's Spirit. Instead, the gifts of God's Spirit appear foolish to them and they are unable to understand them because they are "spiritually" discerned. Only those who have The Spirit can discern these things and affirm that these gifts are not subject to anyone else's judgment.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct the Lord?"

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

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)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 5:14-20

Jesus went on preaching his Sermon on the Mount, saying, "You are the salt of the earth but, if salt has been made irrelevant, how will its saltiness be restored? It has no strength any longer and it is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill has no power to hide itself. And no one after lighting a lamp hides it under a bucket. It goes on the table so it can give light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your "light" shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"It is wrong to think that I have come to abolish the Law or the prophets - because I have come to fulfill them. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass away from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called "least" in the Kingdom of Heaven. But, whoever does them and teaches them will be called "great" in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees – the most "religious" people you know - you will never enter the Kingdom of the Heavens.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Verses



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
 2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
 4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



All: Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
 Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
 Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
 Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and

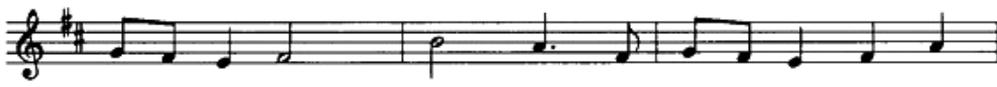


All: life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
 bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
 seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
 love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

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.

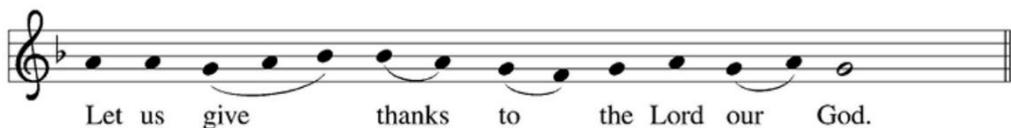
We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

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



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

492, 477, 474



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joyce in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joyce!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

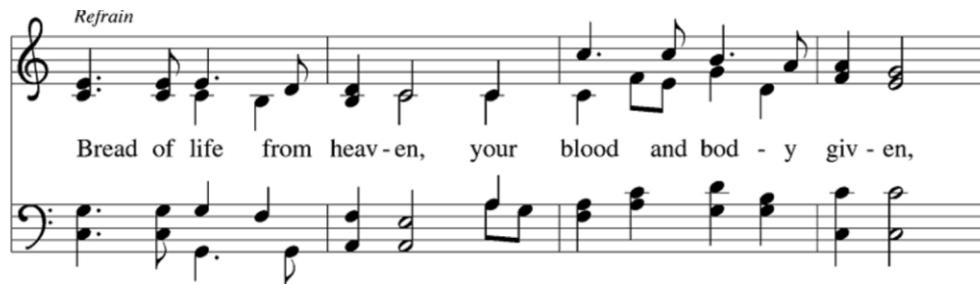


- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par-take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break now the bread | of Christ's sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek not the food | that will pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love as the one | who, in love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell in the one | who now dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink of this cup | and de - clare his death; | eat this |



thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food	that en - dures.	Come, learn the true and the
self for the life	of the world.	Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing	Word.	Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve	Eas - ter morn;	trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer
Benediction
Recessional

580



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God!

Flowers are placed on the altar by Gene & Janette Yetter in honor of Mark Yetter and Michelle Ramirez's wedding.



Sunday, February 1

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School &
Confirmation & Post-Conf. Classes
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday February 3

6:30 a.m. Breakfast & Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
11:00am Bible Study with Pastor Chris
3:00 p.m. Bible Study 101 Lite w/ Pastor Chris
4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Chris - online

Wednesday February 4

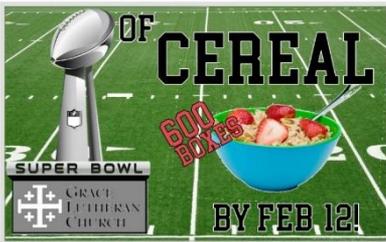
9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

Saturday February 7

8:30 a.m. Grace Audit

Sunday February 8

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation & Post-Conf. Classes
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Grace Youth Bowling Event



Can you help Grace meet our goal?!

Help get Grace into the endzone this weekend by dropping off a box or two or twenty! The cereal will restock the shelves of the Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's Mohegan Lake and bring nutrition and joy to

many kids in our area whose bowls might otherwise go empty.

Can't get a box of cereal? Visit our website at www.GraceYorktown.org to make a secure online donation and Grace will purchase the boxes for you.



Mardi Gras
Potluck
Luncheon

Sunday, February 15, Noon
RSVP Now!



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



3 p.m. 7 p.m.

**ASH
WED**



BLOOD DRIVE

Ash Wednesday
Blood Drive
Feb. 18th
1:00-7:00 p.m.

Visit
www.NYBC.org to
make an
appointment or
walk-in!



Worship in person or online
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Click to Join Worship LiveLater on Grace's Facebook Page

Click to Join Sunday worship LiveLater on YouTube



What's Going On??

Scroll down for info about:

- + This Week at Grace +
- + Super-Cereal Bowl of Caring Collection +
- + Jr. Youth Group Movie Night - January 27+
- + Repair Cafe - January 28 +
- + Quilt Sunday - January 29 +
- + Donate & Support Grace's Ministries +



How do I know what is happening at Grace?

4 Easy Ways to be in the know . . .



Scan through the email that comes to you every Wed & Fri at Noon.



Connect to Grace's Facebook & Instagram Page



Go to GraceYorktown.org



Read the announcements in the Bulletin/Postings at the end of online worship



Please make your tax-deductible donation to support Grace Lutheran and our many faithful ministries using this QR code!

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Samantha Calamera, *Sexton*

Doug Jenkins, *Dig. Ministry* • Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

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