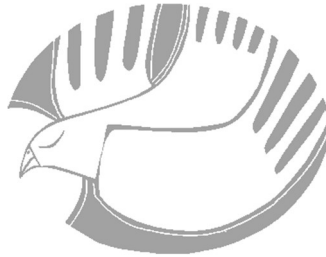


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

February 8, 2026 – The Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The word “Epiphany” as defined in the dictionary has two meanings. When the word is capitalized, it refers to God being revealed to the world in the person of Jesus. In lowercase, the term applies to any display of a deity. We typically use the word today to describe any insightful or dramatic moment that instills new spiritual insight, vision, or perspective into our lives. An epiphany is not something to be hidden; rather, it is something to be shared. God was revealed to the world in Bethlehem in the form of a newborn baby. The news of the Epiphany was shared with the shepherds in Luke’s Gospel, while in Matthew’s Gospel, the news is shared with the Magi. These Gentiles wanted to see for themselves how God chose to come into the world, and we are invited to do the same. The season of Epiphany starts on January 6 and ends the day before Ash Wednesday. The liturgical color is **green**.



OPENING HYMN: Sweet, Sweet Spirit

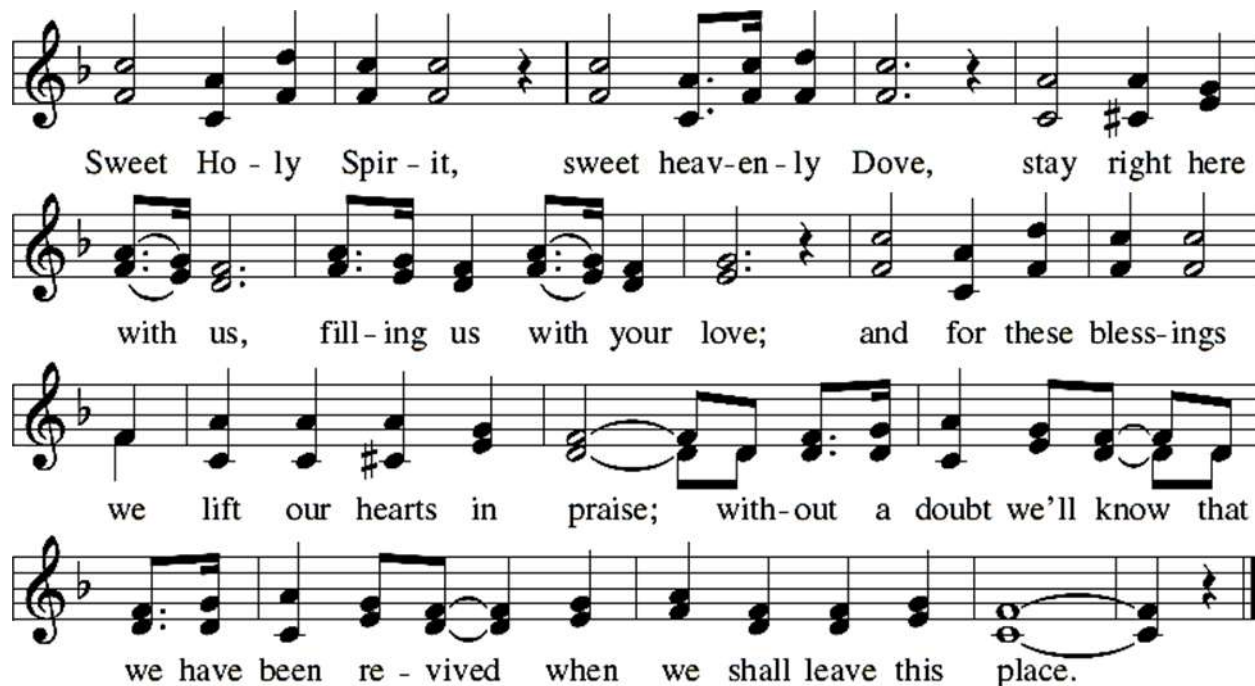
Please stand as you are able

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.



ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.**

GLORIA *BCP p. 356*

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Karen Davenport** † Next Sunday: **Cheryle Kahl***

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-9a

Please be seated

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 112:1-9

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the **

¹Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord*
and have great delight in his commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land;*
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,*
and their righteousness will last for ever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright;*
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending*
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken;*
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;*
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink,*
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor,*
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

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 know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

***People* Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20 *Please stand as you are able*

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all 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.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass 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 that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

***People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Please be seated

NICENE CREED BCP p. 358

Please stand as you are able

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.



PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

The Leader and people pray responsively:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation in a time of crisis, and continue to keep in our prayers the families of Silverio Villegas Gonzáles, Renee Good, and Alex Pretti, slain by ICE. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer list; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

For the children in our lives and in our world: Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant adds a Concluding Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**



THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:

It is truly right to glorify you God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy 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.**

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience

took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again, you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

For you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death and rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

We now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, our God.

God, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, God, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ.

For it is through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant The gifts of God, for all of us, the people of God.
Holy gifts for holy people.

COMMUNION

Please be seated

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *BCP p. 366*

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God Almighty—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**



CLOSING HYMN: Lift Every Voice And Sing!



1. Lift ev-ery voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the
2. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast



1. har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re-joic-ing rise
2. brought us thus far on the way; Thou who hast by thy might



1. High as the lis-t'ning skies, Let it re-sound loud as the roll - ing
2. Led us in - to the light, Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we



1. sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
2. pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we



1. taught us; Sing a song full of the hope that the
2. met thee; Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the



1. pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
2. world, we for - get thee; Shad-owed be-neath thy hand, May we for -



1. day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
2. ev - er stand, True to you God, this is our pra-yer, a - men.

DISMISSAL BCP p. 366

Celebrant Our worship has now ended; go in peace to love
and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry;
Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic;
Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop,
SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower
Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired
community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household:
Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay
leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik;
Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Jasmine Gardner; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair;
Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth
Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela
Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks;
Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott
Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat
Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary
Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy
Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana;
Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz;
Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson
Rumpel; Lucy Smith and family; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer;
Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb;
Debbie H.; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; the family of Carolyn
Siewert; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al
Gazoul; Randy; Bill Atkinson; the family of Tom Krell; Sharon
Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Tom Burns; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy
and family; the Domienik family.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office.

*Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them
to the prayer list.*

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please send all bulletin submissions to
bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org*

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

PALM COLLECTION

Please bring in your dried palms from home; we'll be burning them after the **10:30 service** on **February 15** to be used on Ash Wednesday. Place the palms in the vase on the table in the foyer of the parish hall or on the table in the sanctuary right below Pastor Steve's seat. Thank you!

LENTEN STUDY SERIES

The first part of our Lenten Study Series is watching and discussing Season 5 of "The Chosen." We'll start watching the eight episodes on **Tuesdays** beginning this week, **February 10** at **6:30 PM** in the Guild Room. This season focuses on the triumphal Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem and goes through all of the Holy Week events.

The second component focuses on a discussion of white Christian nationalism which will begin on **Sunday, February 15** at **noon** and continue each week at this same time through Palm Sunday. We'll watch a video documentary the first week and explore readings from *The Seven Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* by Carter Heyward. Participate in one or both activities for lively discussion as we prepare for Easter.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 17** when our vestry will be preparing and serving a pancake supper for our members from **5 to 6:30 PM**. You may come anytime during this period, and you're welcome to stay afterwards to watch Season 5, Episode 2 of "The Chosen."

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be at **6 PM** on **March 12** at Grace Church. The book to be discussed is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. We look forward to meeting newcomers as well as regular members for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

For the People of Ukraine

God of **comfort** and **hope**, who sits with those who suffer under the torment of war, **be with the people of Ukraine** as they work to protect their families and cling to **hope for peace** amid a bitterly cold winter. **Provide warmth** and shelter for all Ukrainians who lack electricity and heat due to targeted infrastructure. **Bring healing** to the sick and the wounded and **strengthen** the resolve of all people in that land to endure, to seek peace, and to **hope for justice** as they look to brighter days, trusting in you for a new dawn of peace and justice. We ask this through Christ, our light in darkness and our peace. Amen.
