

Hope Lutheran Church

2001 S 500 E, Columbia City, IN 46725

Phone: (260) 244-3958

E-Mail: hopelutheranelca@centurylink.net

Grace Lutheran Church

204 North Main Street Columbia City, Indiana 46725

Phone: 260-244-7118 **Fax:** 260-248-2138

E-Mail: office.gracelutheran@gmail.com

Web Page: www.gracecolumbiacity.org

Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor

Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director

Joyce Dubach, Organist

January 7, 2024

Epiphany of Our Lord



Introduction to the day

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

Food pantry need: cereal

Attendance for December 31, 2023 -

PRELUDE

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
**Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
In ✙ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.
Amen.

[Please stand as you are able.]

ENTRANCE HYMN

(ELW 310)

. **Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt. Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702;
arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Ⓐ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☩ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



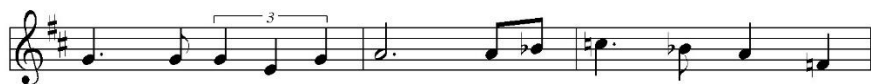
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Ⓑ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and the glory of the LORD will appear over you.
- ³Nations shall come to your light,
and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
- ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please read responsively)

PSALM: PSALM 72:1-7,1-14

- ¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
- ³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little ¹ hills bring righteousness.
- ⁴**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**⁶He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**¹⁰The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

¹¹All kings shall bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.

**¹²For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

¹³He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**¹⁴He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from Ephesians.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become heirs with us, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of God's power.

⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²through faith in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand as you are able.]

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

[The assembly is seated]

SERMON

[Please stand as you are able.]

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW 302)

. **As with Gladness Men of Old**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty, and all who are oppressed. Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile. Give them strength and lead them forth with hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

(other prayers may be offered at this time, silently or loud.)

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery hidden for ages in the One who created all things.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(At this time share peace with your neighbor around you.)

OFFERTORY HYMN

(ELW 487)

. **What Feast of Love**

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of abundance,

receive and bless these gifts we have offered.

Join our hearts with the song of the angels,

and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world

the abundance of your grace upon grace,

poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

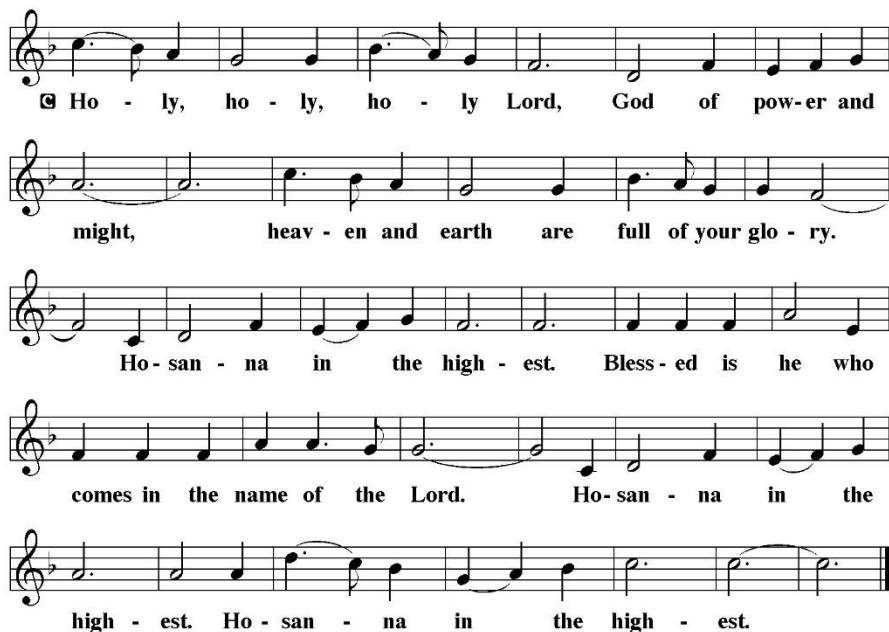
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Al-might-y Lord [*do-sol-mi-do*],
we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.
From before the earth's foundation,
you loved us and promised us life forever.
Within the earth's deep sadness,
we laud your great and glorious might.
Despite our tears and sinning,
we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
We praise your Son,
our Morn-ing Star. [*do-sol-mi-do*]
Christ is **our dia-mond bright,**

our trea-sure dear. [*do-sol-mi-do, sol-la-la-sol*]

He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love.

He keeps us yours and fails us never—

today, tomorrow, and every day.

On the night before his great salvation,

he 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.

With joy we tell our story:

Al-le-lu-ia! [*sol-mi-sol-mi*]

[Assembly echoes:] **Al-le-lu-ia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.

Refresh our souls with this heavenly food,

the body and blood of your Son.

Nourish us as branches of your tree,

and enlighten us with your undying flame.

We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son,

we exult in the Spirit.

Transport us in our yearning,

and be for us the end and the beginning,

our purest pleasure, our victorious crown,

our never-ending love.

And so we pray and praise:

A-men, a-men, a-men, a-men. [*high do-sol-la-sol, fa-mi-re-do*]

[Assembly echoes:] **A-men, a-men, a-men, a-men.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

COMMUNION

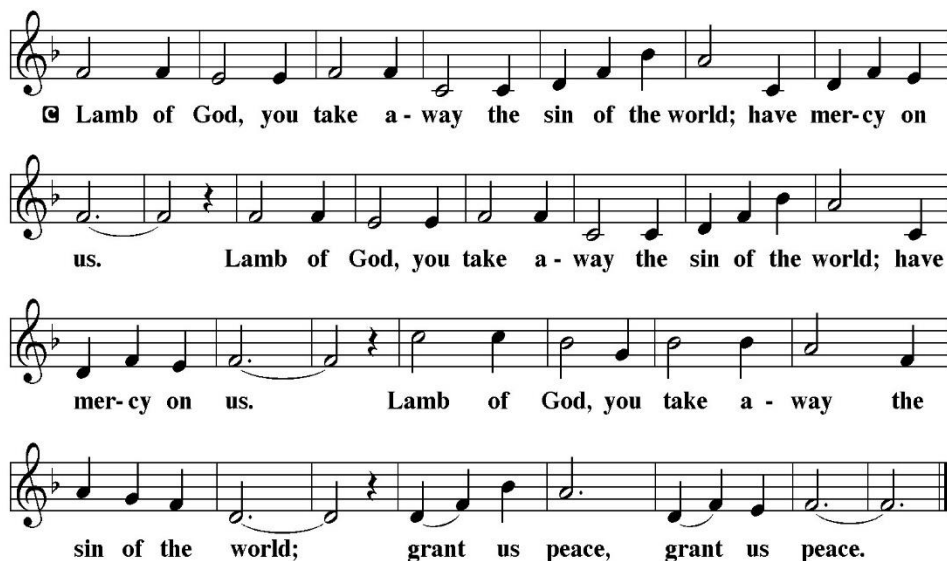
All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

(Everyone is welcome to come to the communion table. If you have not received instruction in the Sacraments, come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like to receive communion where you are seated in the pews, please tell the usher and at the close of communion you will be served.)

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

(ELW 306)

. **Come, Beloved of the Maker**

Text: susan Pala Cherwien, 1953-2021 Music: David Cherwien, B.
1957

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(ELW 314)

. **Arise, Your Light Has Come!**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: William H. Walter, 1825–
1893

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Bread Loaf offering in December will go towards **Salvation Army(First church of God)**
- We are looking for someone willing to pick an elderly lady up from Diplomat Drive and bring her to and from church on Sunday morning, If you are able please let the office know.
- There is still time to turn in pictures for the directory. Please send them to Office.gracelutheran@gmail.com or you can drop them off in the office mailbox outside the office.
- Congregational meeting will be held January 21,2024. Following the Church service with a Carry-in dinner. Church will provide the meat, bring a side to share. Things that will be voted on Council elections, budget, and the sign.
- Please have your reports for the congregational meeting, sent to the office, or in the office mailbox by January 19th,2023.
- "Scams Targeting Seniors" to be held at Autumn Trace Senior Communities on January 9th Law Enforcement Day at 1:30 pm. Officer Billy Maddox from the Whitley County Sheriff's Department will be the guest speaker.

Weekly agenda at Grace Lutheran church

Monday January 8,2024

Bowen group 5pm

Financial team 5:30pm

Boy Scouts 6:30pm

Church council 6:30pm

Tuesday January 9,2024

T.O.P.S 9-11am

Sigma ETA 6:30pm

Cub Scouts Pack 3082 6:30pm

Wednesday January 10,2024

Men's breakfast 8am

Food pantry 12pm

Food voucher distribution 4pm

Giving garden Annual 5:30pm

Thursday January 11,2024

Helping hands 12:30 pm

bell Choir 7pm

AA/AL anonymous 7:30 pm

Friday January 12,2024

Pastor's Day off

Food pantry 12-2pm

Saturday January 13,2024

Sunday January 14,2024

Worship @ Hope 8:15am

Worship @ Grace 10am

Bell Choir 10:30am

Fellowship 11:15am

Confirmation class 11:15am

Girl scouts 2pm

We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would like to stay.