

Sunday, January 14, 2024

*Epiphany 2*



## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 98

**Pastor:** Oh sing to the LORD a new song,

**People:** For He has done marvelous things!

**Pastor:** His right hand and His holy arm,

**People:** Have worked salvation for Him.

**Pastor:** The LORD has made known His salvation;

**People:** He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**Pastor:** He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**People:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Pastor:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

**People:** Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**People:** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## ***PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY***

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore him!

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>13</sup>If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part;

then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Pastor:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Aaron Smith**

### ***The Problem of Evil - Part 1***

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN - Psalms 32; 124**

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People:** Who made heaven and earth.

**Pastor:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**People:** And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Pastor:** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**People:** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**Pastor:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **COMMITMENT TO LOVE**

**Pastor:** Let us reaffirm our commitment to love one another, using Ephesians 4 & 5.

**People:** **Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us.**

## **CONFESSION OF SACRAMENT**

**Pastor:** Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

**People:** **Yes, we believe it.**

**Pastor:** What convinces you to believe this?

**People:** **The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.**

*Offerings can be placed on a plate near the stairs or the back of the sanctuary.*

*Holy Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is celebrated today. Our Lord cautions us to be discerning before participating in the Supper (1 Cor. 11:28-30). For this reason, we ask all those communing here for the first time to speak with Pastor Aaron prior to communing. The Lord bids the baptized to come united in the following: in repentance for the forgiveness of sins (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Matt. 26:26-28), in confession of who Christ is and what Christ has done (1 Cor. 11:26), in faith and love with our fellow communicants (1 Cor. 11:20-22), and believing that Christ is bodily present in bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:27-29).*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

### **HOLY FOREVER**

A thousand generations falling down in worship  
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb  
And all who've gone before us and all who will believe  
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

*Pre-Chorus: Cause Your name is the highest  
Your name is the greatest  
Your name stands above them all  
All thrones and dominions, all powers and positions  
Your name stands above them all*

***Chorus: And the angels cry Holy  
All creation cries Holy  
You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever***

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name  
Sing the song forever to the Lamb  
We'll sing the song forever and amen

*(Chorus)*

***Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever***

*(Pre-Chorus 2x)*

*(Chorus)*

***Hear Your people sing Holy  
To the King of Kings Holy  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever  
You will always be Holy, Holy forever***

## ***ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST***

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive.  
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive.  
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life?  
A mist that vanishes at dawn; All glory be to Christ.

***Chorus: All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!***

His will be done, His kingdom come, On earth as is above,  
Who is Himself our daily bread; praise Him the Lord of love.  
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price;  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet; All glory be to Christ.

*(Chorus)*

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true,  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain, is making all things new.  
Behold, our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light.  
And we shall e'er his people be; All glory be to Christ

*(Chorus 2x)*

## **PRAYER**

### **BENEDICTION - 2 Corinthians 13**

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: Amen.**

### ***GOD IS FOR US***

We won't fear the battle we won't fear the night  
We will walk the Valley with You by our side  
You will go before us You will lead the way  
We have found a refuge only You can save

***Chorus: Sing with joy now Our God is for us  
The Father's love is a strong and mighty fortress  
Raise your voice now no love is greater  
Who can stand against us if our God is for us***

Even when I stumble even when I fall  
Even when I turn back still Your love is sure  
You will not abandon You will not forsake  
You will cheer me onward with never ending grace

*(Chorus)*

***Bridge 2x: Neither height nor depth can separate us  
Hell and death will not defeat us  
He who gave His Son to free us  
Holds me in His love***

*(Chorus 2x)*

## **THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School is continuing with our study of the Old Testament. We have four classes in addition to Pastor's Adult Bible Study on prayer: Grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 as well as our Adult Sunday School. The Adult class is located directly next to the east parking lot gate. It is designed for parents of Sunday School children and intended to foster family conversation and growth regarding this week's lesson. Everyone is welcome! Please join us as we explore the depth and riches God has written for us in His Word.

### **January 14 - A Tent for God: God with His People - Exodus 25:1-19, 40:1-8, 34-38**

God made His dwelling among His people in the tabernacle, revealing God's justice and His mercy. Jesus, the fulfillment of God's promises, made His dwelling among us and continues to provide mercy and grace for us.

### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: Ushers Needed for 9:00 AM Service**

Do you have a heart to serve? Would you like to volunteer with some really fun folks? Can you make a minimal commitment of a few Sundays each year? Do you like a flexible schedule? Contact Bob Glaser at 760-533-6942 or [bobglaser22@gmail.com](mailto:bobglaser22@gmail.com) to get started.

### **GRACE WOMENS BOOK CLUB**

Our next book is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picault. We will meet on Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 PM at Judi Anderson's home. 2817 Cantegra Glen, Escondido. Gate Code #1532. Please confirm your participation by contacting Judi at [heyjude6168@cox.net](mailto:heyjude6168@cox.net).

### **ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?**

If you are, did you know you can apply (online or by phone) for money to be used for volunteer projects at Grace? The program is called Action Teams and is a benefit of being a Thrivent member. Thrivent can provide these funds because Thrivent is a Christian (not-for-profit) financial services company. Funds range from \$50 to \$500. For more information go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). Search Action Teams. Or contact Jess Reimnitz at 858.345.0757 or [jess.reimnitz@thrivent.com](mailto:jess.reimnitz@thrivent.com).

### **ACTIVITIES AT GRACE - Please Join Us!**

- **Young Adult Group** - We meet on Fridays in the Grace Youth Room at 7:00 PM.
- **Feeling Fit Adult Exercise Class** - Join us on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:30 AM in the Multipurpose Room.
- **Craft Group** - We do all crafts! Bring yours or start a new one with us on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM in the classroom near the church parking lot.

Contact Helena Isbell at 760-310-1566 with any questions.

## NEW SERMON SERIES

The Epiphany Season falls between the two major events of the Christian faith, the Incarnation and the Resurrection of Christ. This affords us an opportunity to investigate the claims of the Christian faith. This Epiphany's Apologetics Sermon Series deals with the main question posed to Christianity. "If God is all-good and all-powerful, why does evil exist?" If you haven't yet been posed this question, you are sure to encounter it in some form or another.

## SERMON READINGS

<b>January 14</b>	<b><i>The Problem of Evil-Part 1</i></b>	<b><i>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</i></b>
January 21	The Problem of Evil-Part 2	Hebrews 4:4-16
January 28	Hypocrite Alert!	Luke 18:9-14
February 4	Mad or Sad?	John 4:5-19

## THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

The Epiphany Season begins on January 6<sup>th</sup>, with the Major Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord, which commemorates the visit of the Magi (Gentiles) to Jesus. Epiphany (appearance or manifestation) focuses upon the manifestation of God-in-the-flesh to the world, especially the Gentiles. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The Baptism of our Lord (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany) and the Festival of the Transfiguration are the bookends of the Epiphany Season. They highlight the theme of manifestation.

The color for Epiphany is green. Green is the color of growth, as the Church celebrates the growth of Jesus' ministry as He makes Himself known in word and deed. The Church rejoices in the appearance of the Incarnate God for the whole world. The festivals in the Epiphany Season use the color white, as the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ is made known to the world.



### ***Continued prayers/homebound:***

Lorene Best, Sherry Fischer, Barbara Guy, Norma Kellerup,  
Ellie Liebmann, Dorothy Ross, Dennis Roth, Janis Smith.

### **December Giving Report:**

Actuals:	\$86,882
Budget:	<u>\$87,266</u>
	<b>-\$384</b>
YTD Actuals:	\$316,953
YTD Budget:	<u>\$299,404</u>
	<b>\$17,549</b>

## ON SITE SERVICES AND MEETINGS

### Sunday Worship:

9:00AM English Worship Service  
10:30AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Study  
11:30AM Spanish Worship Service  
For online worship please go to:  
**[gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/](http://gracelutheranescondido.org/sermons/)**

**[gracelutheranescondido.org](http://gracelutheranescondido.org)**

New Horizons Bible Study Wed. 9:30am  
Women's Bible Study 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thur. 9am  
High School Youth "***The Stand***" Wed. 6:30-9pm  
Adult Bible Study Thursday 7pm  
Men's Bible Study Saturday 7:30am  
Junior High School "***Face to Face***" Sat. 5:30-8:30pm

**[graceschoolescondido.org](http://graceschoolescondido.org)**