



Sunday, January 7, 2024

*Epiphany 1*

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

## CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 95

**Pastor:** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

**People:** Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Pastor:** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

**People:** Let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**Pastor:** For the LORD is a great God,

**People:** And a great King above all gods.

**Pastor:** In His hand are the depths of the earth;

**People:** The heights of the mountains are His also.

**Pastor:** The sea is His, for He made it,

**People:** And His hands formed the dry land.

**Pastor:** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**People:** Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

**Pastor:** For He is our God,

**People:** And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

**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.

## ***JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE***

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays;  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus, which the Morning Stars began.  
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music lifts us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **Psalm 72:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! <sup>2</sup>May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice! <sup>3</sup>Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness! <sup>4</sup>May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor! <sup>5</sup>May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! <sup>6</sup>May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! <sup>7</sup>In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more! <sup>8</sup>May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! <sup>9</sup>May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! <sup>10</sup>May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! <sup>11</sup>May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! <sup>12</sup>For he delivers the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper. <sup>13</sup>He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. <sup>14</sup>From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight. <sup>15</sup>Long may he live; may gold of Sheba be given to him! May prayer be made for him continually, and blessings invoked for him all the day! <sup>16</sup>May there be abundance of grain in the land; on the tops of the mountains may it wave; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field! <sup>17</sup>May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be

blessed in him, all nations call him blessed! <sup>18</sup>Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. <sup>19</sup>Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and Amen! <sup>20</sup>The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**Pastor Aaron Smith**

### *Election Year*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN - 1 John**

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: 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 Galatians 6.

**People:** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

## CONFESSION OF SACRAMENT

**Pastor:** What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

**People:** It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*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

### ***I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE***

I come, O Savior, to Thy table,  
For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able  
To satisfy and make me whole.

***Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!***

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning  
That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;  
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *[Refrain]*

Unworthy though I am, O Savior,  
Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never  
For Thou my faithful Shepherd art! *[Refrain]*

Weary am I and heavy laden,  
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously, and gladden  
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *[Refrain]*

What higher gift can we inherit?  
It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit,  
The covenant of hope and grace. *[Refrain]*

## **AMAZING GRACE**

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound!  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear,  
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise,  
Than when we first begun.

## PRAYER

### BENEDICTION - Numbers 6

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

### ***STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS***

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.  
From victory unto victory his army shall he lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;  
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this his glorious day.  
Ye that are brave now serve him against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song.  
To those who vanquish evil a crown of life shall be;  
They with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We encourage you to bring your kindergarten through eighth-grade children and grandchildren to the Sunday school classrooms at 10:30 every Sunday after the 9:00 AM service. (Classes resume on January 7, 2024) Look for signs on the patio to direct you to the classrooms.

## 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).

## GULLS HOCKEY NIGHT

Grace Family Fun! Bring your family and friends to the Gulls Hockey Game on Saturday, April 6 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 with a percentage going back to Grace. (The amount we receive depends on the total amount of tickets sold) Purchase your tickets by March 22 from Helena Isbell at 760-310-1566 Hope to see you there!

## 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.

## 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)