

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE REV. PEGGY NIEDERER – PASTOR

201-403-4341

CAROL WEBER - CANTOR

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY JANUARY 22, 2023



Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG

Welcome to worship!
While indoors,
please continue to mask and social distance.

PRELUDE: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*
(How Lovely Shines the Morning Star)

Andreas Armsdorff

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand and face the altar.

***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.***

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One, source of our renewal,

C **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,
that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

P Thus says our God:
"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."
God's mercy makes us new.
We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

LBW 248



1 Dear-est Je - sus, at your word we have come a - gain to
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of light from God pro -
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and ad - o -



hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in
 shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night, fill - ing
 ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light; help our
 ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most: your blest



glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is - es here
 us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and all good
 hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and songs may
 gos - pel's con - so - la - tion, while we here on earth a -



giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come. Alleluia, alleluia!
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

KYRIE



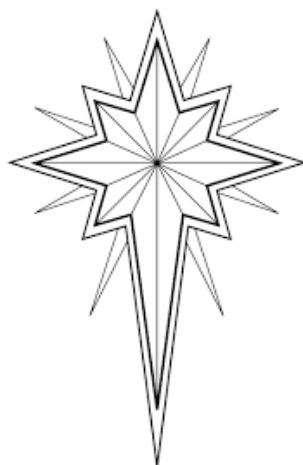
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

WOV, Setting 5



☐ 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- migh- ty 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;



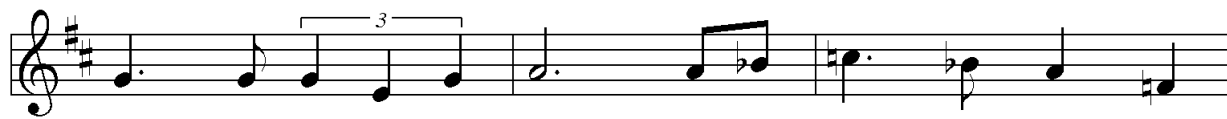
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.



C 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.



I
II 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.



C 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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you,**

P Let us pray.

P Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

A A reading from Isaiah, the 9th chapter.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A The word of God. The Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

A A reading from 1st Corinthians, the 1st chapter.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

A The word of God. The Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 157

ALL SING:



Music: Plainsong mode VI

Verse

Jesus preached the good news ¹ of the kingdom*
and cured every sickness a- ¹ mong the people.. (Matt. 4:23)

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

ALL REPEAT THE ALLELUIAS.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand as you are able.



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.
 fish nets and will for work - ing.
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.
 Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936–1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES, Cesáreo Gabaráin

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 Tr. © Editorial Avance Luterano

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

P The following persons having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership are asked to stand as their offices and names are read.

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Julie Buckingham
Leslyn Cooke
Kaitlin Costello
Catherine Keohane
Fred Lewis
Donna Maxwell
Sue Papera
Lorli Steffen
Janet Thalmann

P In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of the church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith.

St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of Spiritual Gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect him in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in the community and in the whole world.

You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the harmony and life of this congregation. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected? If so, answer: Yes, by the help of God.

Church Council Members: Yes, by the help of God.

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.

P I now declare you installed as Church Council Members and Officers of this congregation. May God bless you with God's Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.



NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

C **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 INTERCESSION

Lynn Buckingham

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, Lutheran Social Services of New Jersey, the New Jersey Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian community, our friends from the Light & Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere. as they live out their callings to serve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, are isolated and lonely or in need of care especially those we pray for in silence or aloud. (*pause*) Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

C Amen.

PEACE ***Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.***

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING ***Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.***

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful
power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you,**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 in 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table where all are welcome.
Come and taste the joy of God!

AGNUS DEI



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



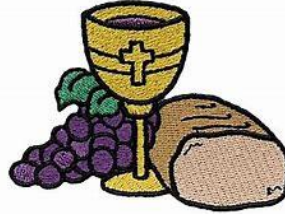
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please stay seated until the person in front of you has received the wafer.

Continue to mask until after you have received the wafer & cup and have stepped away from the communion tray.

***A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.
The center contains purple grape juice.
White wine is in the remainder of the tray.***

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know that you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in Christ's grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

Nunc Dimittis

LBW, Setting 2

☩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A Let us pray.
Holy One,
we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.
- C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 681



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BWV 739 Johann Sebastian Bach*
(How Lovely Shines the Morning Star)

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY
TO
Fred Lewis, Greeter
Kaitlin Costello, Liturgist & Reader
Lynn Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession
Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



Via Zoom
Monday, January 23rd, at 7 pm



Via Zoom
Thursday, January 26th, at Noon
Epiphany: The Historic Signs of God's Love
1st John, Chapter 4
Connection link will be emailed



Part 2 After Mass
Sunday, January 29, 2023
Looking back over the past year: Mission & Ministry Reports
Selection and vote on
Grace's Voting Member(s) to the NJ Synod Assembly
Scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 13th
outdoors on the "Grounds for Sculpture" Hamilton, NJ



PRAYERS

Carol Weber; Doris Baumann (Carol's mom); Katie Wolfe with vision issues (Carol's cousin); Donald Lazlear and his family (Zulema's friends); Katie (Zulema's niece), Surella (Katie's mom), and Frank Borowski (Katie's dad), and aunt; Enrique Perez (Jack's father-in-law); Marc Yaffe (Leslyn's and Michael's son); Melanie M. (Julie's friend); John Fiore, Sr. (Julie's friend's father with cancer); Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Arlene Rizzo (Sue's friend undergoing cancer treatments) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (Sue Papera's friend who has health concerns); Ron Barlotta (Sue's sister's brother-in-law being treated for cancer); Caleb (Sue's friend with mental health issues); Jenny L. (Sue's friend with health issues); Jason and Paul Thalmann (Janet's nephew and brother); Beverly Philip (Janet's sister-in-law with severe dementia); Kathy O'Brien (a co-worker of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Michele Rusciano (a friend of Janet Thalmann's sister-in-law); Mark Crovatto (Al's son); Susan Beever (Mary Ellen's friend); Dominick Capalba (Mary Ellen's 6 year old friend with brain cancer); Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law) who work for the State Department; Dan and John Steffen (Lorli's brothers with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece who has an immune disorder); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Gerry Schlask (health concerns); Kevin (a friend of the congregation undergoing treatment for cancer); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Cathyann (Pastor's friend from seminary with pancreatic cancer); Doris Feirer (a friend of the congregation); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Charlie and Mary Lewis (Fred's brother and sister-in-law with health concerns); the people of Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan and those who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health experts, national and regional officials; those affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of any changes needed in the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Conversion of Paul

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Thursday, January 26, 2023

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Friday, January 27, 2023

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Saturday, January 28, 2023

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

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