

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, Arizona

February 4, 2018



Our mission at Grace is to teach the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the crucified and risen Savior of the world, and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service.

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today at Grace-Tucson! We pray that this time will be a blessing for you as God comes to you with his Word and promises as you offer him your thanks and praise.

Worship Notes

The **order of service** we follow is printed out in this worship folder. You'll notice that the service is a dialogue between God and us, his people. The pastor speaks to God along with the congregation and also speaks the Word of God to the people.

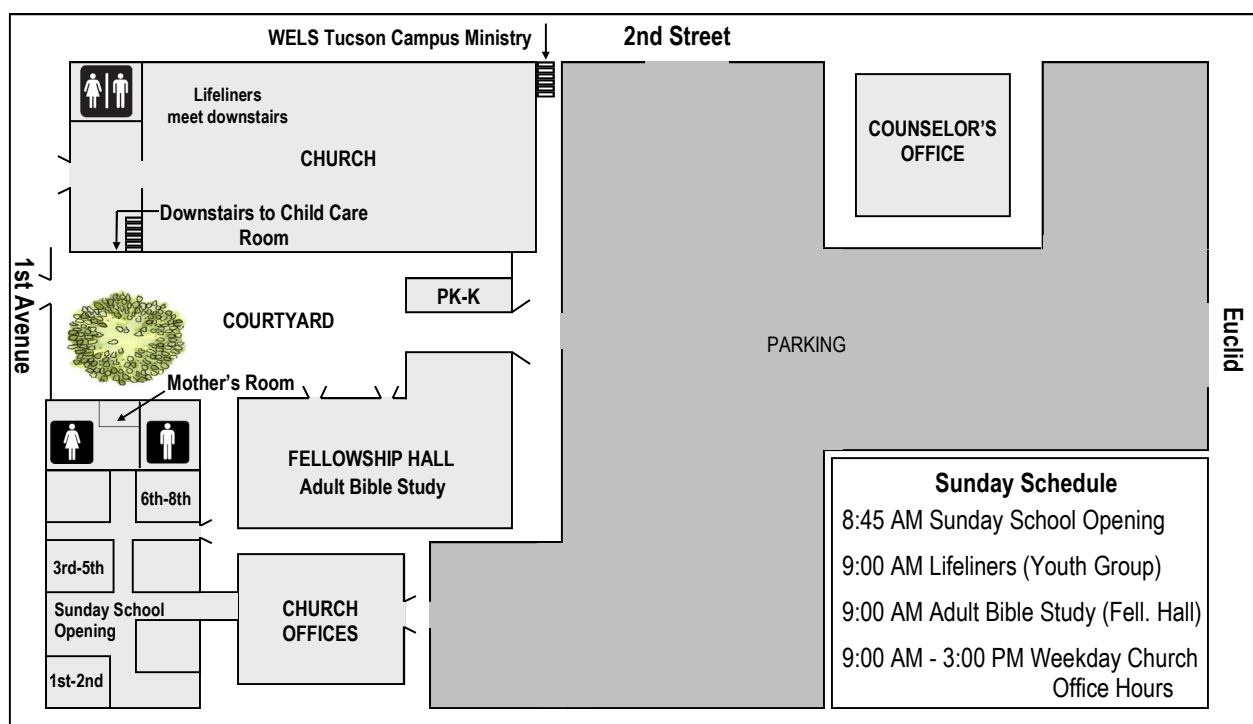
Hymns are found in our hymnal, *Christian Worship*, which is the red book in the pew rack in front of you.

Large print hymn sheets are available in the entryway. You may also ask an usher or greeter to get one for you.

We believe that many blessings come from having families worship together and we love to have **children in worship!** If you need to calm a restless child, you may:

- stand for a few moments in the entryway, sometimes that's all that's needed;
- go down the stairs to the left in the entryway—they will lead down to the Child Care Room where you will be able to see and hear the service;
- visit the private Mother's Room across the courtyard in the women's restroom—you will be able to hear the service there also.

Printed copies of the sermon are available in the entryways. CDs of the entire worship service will be made upon request from the sound technician in the balcony. It only takes a few minutes to copy. You may also find sermons and services in print, audio, and video on our website: www.GraceLutheranSAZ.org



During the weeks following The Festival of Epiphany (January 6) and preceding the Lenten season, which begins with Ash Wednesday, the Church celebrates the season of Epiphany. During these weeks the focus is on events in the life of Christ, who has appeared as the Light of the World and Savior of all people. The color of the season is green, which brings to mind the growth and life of Christ.

DIVINE SERVICE I

Christian Worship Supplement

WELCOME

HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People
Christian Worship #556

Please stand

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

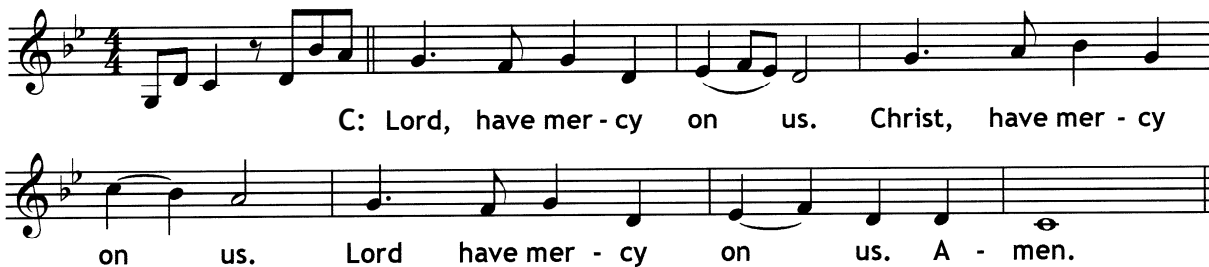
M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

We come before the true God only because of his mercy and not because we deserve to come. We confess our unworthiness and rejoice to hear the assurance of forgiveness.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie



Kyrie—We sing our penitential confession to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, asking for his mercy. The name Kyrie is shortened from the Greek Kyrie Eleison, which means “Lord have mercy.”

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD

Gloria in Excelsis

(Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction)

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. It begins in 4/4 time and transitions to 3/4 time at the end of the first system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined for emphasis. The score includes a double bar line with a '2' above it, indicating a second ending. The final measure of the piece is a whole note chord.

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his 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 in the
high - est and peace to his 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, re - ceive our
prayer. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Job 7:1-7

“Do not mortals have hard service on earth? Are not their days like those of hired laborers? Like a slave longing for the evening shadows, or a hired laborer waiting to be paid, so I have been allotted months of futility, and nights of misery have been assigned to me. When I lie down I think, ‘How long before I get up?’ The night drags

on, and I toss and turn until dawn. My body is clothed with worms and scabs, my skin is broken and festering. My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope. Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again.”

The First Lesson is frequently a reading from the Old Testament. It shares a common theme with the Second Lesson (often from one of the epistles) and the Gospel.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his

Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 8:12

M: Alleluia. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Alleluia.

The Verse of the Day is a familiar or significant Scripture text framed with alleluias.

Please stand

*The congregation
stands out of
respect for the
words of Christ our
King.*

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

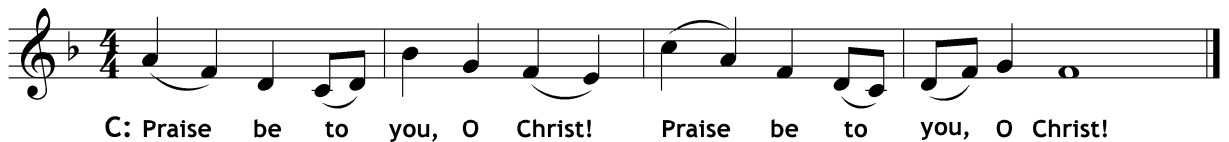
After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the

demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED

*The Nicene Creed
was first developed
in 325 at the First
Council of Nicea. It
was written to
reaffirm the Biblical
teaching of the
divinity of Jesus,
God's Son. Like the
Apostles' and
Athanasian Creeds,
the Nicene Creed is
a confession of what
the Bible teaches.*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

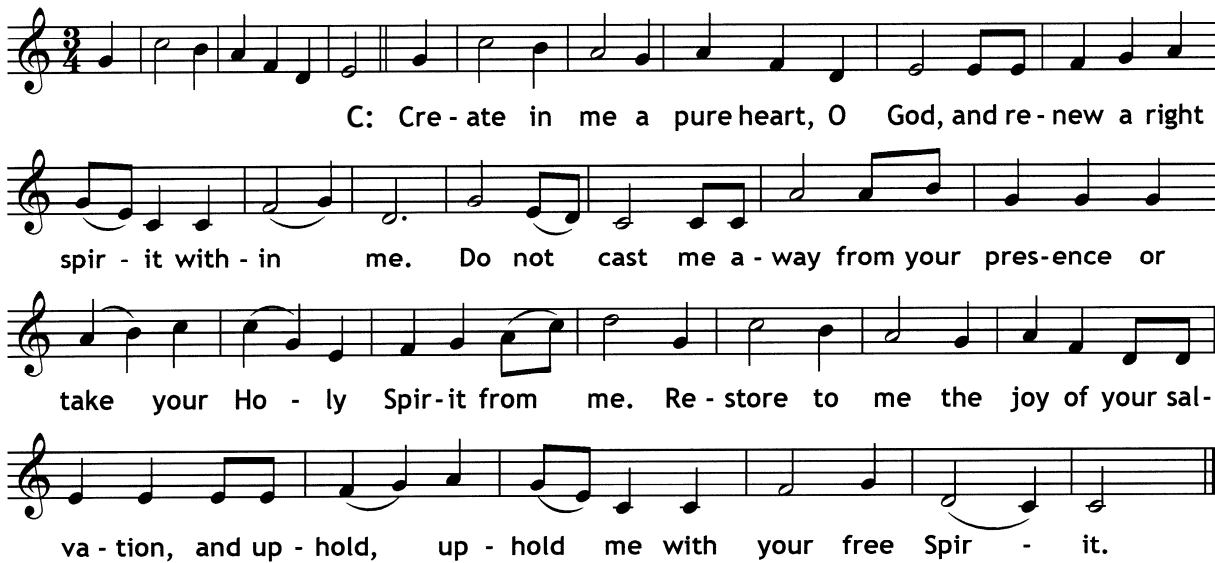
Hail to the Lord's Anointed
Christian Worship #93

SERMON

Mark 1:29-39
This Is Why Jesus Came

Please stand

After the sermon, please join in singing the response below:



C: Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Do not cast me a - way from your pres - ence or
take your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -
va - tion, and up - hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest today, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the row and pass it along. Thank You!

Please stand

*If you prefer, use
your smart phone to
give online by
scanning this
QR code:*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging.

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope.

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

Matthew 6 and Luke 11 record how Jesus taught his disciples to pray. We use his example prayer as part of our public worship, trusting that he will hear and answer our prayers.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

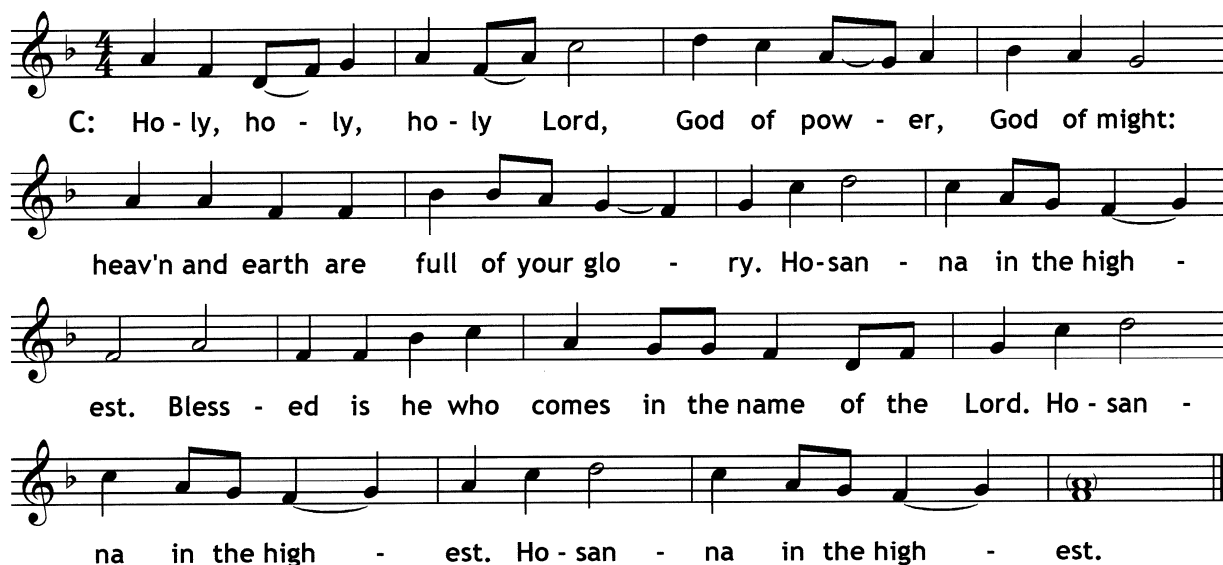
C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men. A - - - men.

We provide **gluten-free communion wafers** for those with wheat allergy, gluten-sensitivity or celiac disease. These wafers are stored and handled separately to avoid cross-contamination. They are "bread" as Scripture requires and are consecrated along with the rest of the bread. For those requiring gluten-free wafers, please take one from the container on the stand located at the front rail as you approach for communion. Simply hold it so that the pastor can see it at the time of distribution.

Grape juice is available for those who for health or medical reason require it instead of wine. Please speak with a pastor about providing grape juice for you on future Sundays.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is a unique communion of Christ and the individual believer as well as a coming together of people who hold to the same beliefs. Because of these Scriptural truths, we practice **Member Communion** at Grace. Those who are confirmed members of Wisconsin Synod congregations (WELS) are invited to receive the Lord's Supper with us.*

If you are not a WELS member but have an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please speak with the pastor after church today or at another time. We are aware that there are a number of other teachings about Holy Communion, and we want it to be a blessing for you, so we would look forward to sharing with you what God says about this Sacrament.

Please stand

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

Please join in singing the response below following a brief introduction:

C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The Nunc Dimittis ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul
Christian Worship #238

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So I will put my name on [them], and I will bless them." Numbers 6:27

THOSE ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher Pastor Nathan Kassulke
Worship Leader Pastor Tim Patoka (10:00 AM)
Communion Assistants Pastor Mark Hallemeyer, Trustee Jeff Weinstein (10:00 AM)
Accompanists Stephanie Kania (7:45 AM), Elaine Goldie (10:00 AM)
Ushers Rusty King, Vic Thornton (7:45 AM)
 Jon Dongoske, Dylan Guenther, Danny Koehler, Dustin Pauley, Colton Watson (10:00 AM)
Sound, Recording & Video Tech Jeremy Snavelly
Altar Prep Team Lauri Colton, Audrey Nessinger, Jeanette O'Donald
Greeters Jeanette O'Donald, Nadine Rentschler
Banner Committee Jeanette O'Donald, Nadine Rentschler, Sandy Weir

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Divine Call Declined

After much prayer and careful deliberation, Pastor Matt Westra has announced his decision to decline the Call extended to him to serve as Grace's Mission Pastor to Benson and Vail. We wish him God's blessings as he continues his service at Living Promise in Morristown, Tennessee. You can read Pastor Westra's letter to our congregation on the back page. We trust that God will bless our congregation as we continue the calling process and await the man the Lord of the Church has in mind to serve us. **The next Call Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 18 at 2:00 PM in the Grace-Tucson Fellowship Hall in conjunction with the next regular Voters' Meeting.**

Lenten Services

Wednesday midweek services will be held at Grace-Benson, Grace-Sahuarita, and Grace-Tucson every Wednesday beginning on February 14 through March 21. The theme for our services is "Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest." The sermons and service themes will rotate among the various sites, so worshipers who attend more than one site could hear a sermon repeated. See the schedule below for the first midweek services on February 14.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Grace-Benson	6 PM	Supper
	7 PM	Lenten Worship
Grace-Sahuarita	10 AM	Lenten Worship
	6 PM	Supper
	7 PM	Lenten Worship
Grace-Tucson	10 AM	Lenten Worship
	6 PM	Supper
	7 PM	Lenten Worship



We need volunteers to host the meals at Grace-Tucson (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall as well as an information sheet which explains how to host one of these meals. You may also contact the church office if you're interested in helping.

Part-time Positions Available

Grace Lutheran Church of Southern AZ is looking for a part-time Groundskeeper and a part-time indoor Custodian for Grace-Tucson. If you have any interest please contact the Trustee, Jeff Weinstein: 520-909-7649, trustee@gracelutheransaz.org.

TODAY

Welcome Grace Guests!

If you are a guest at Grace today, we are very happy to have you worship with us! If you would like more information about Grace or have questions about becoming a member of our congregation, please visit the Welcome Table in the courtyard. If this is your first time at Grace, please stop there to pick up a gift just for being our guest this morning.

Holy Communion

There are before-communion and after-communion prayers in our Christian Worship hymnal on p. 11, and a personal preparation guide on p. 156 to help prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper. If you are a guest with us today, please see p. 9 in today's worship folder under "Distribution" for information about our practice of Member Communion.

Altar Flowers

The flowers beautifying our worship this morning have been given by Greg and Karen Grorud in thankfulness to God for all His blessings.

You Are Invited

You are invited to coffee fellowship this morning in the courtyard following both services. Fellowship following the 10:00 AM service is hosted by the Heinz and Grorud families today. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Koehler is leading worship at Grace-Vail this morning.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next week's Scripture Lessons for Devotional Reading this Week

2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Called to Eternal Glory

Grace Member Gisela Kittel was called home to heaven on Tuesday, January 30. A memorial service will be held at Grace-Tucson. A date has not yet been set, but may be in mid-March. Announcements will be included in future worship folders when the service has been scheduled.

Women of Grace Valentine Tea

The Women of Grace will have their annual Valentine's Tea at Grace-Tucson on February 10 at 11:30 AM. Female members from all sites are encouraged to participate in this popular event, which will include a luncheon and presentation by Mary Clemons on John 15:17 under the theme "Love My People." Women are still needed to host tables, provide food, set-up and clean-up. To RSVP and to indicate how you can help, please sign up on the sheets located in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact Diane Kramm (520-440-8564).

ALA Basketball Tournament

The annual men's church league basketball tournament at Arizona Lutheran Academy (located in Phoenix) will be held on Saturday, March 17 (starting time is still to be determined). Any men interested in playing on a team from Grace should contact Jeff Weinstein: 520-909-7649, trustee@gracelutheransaz.org by February 15.

Guest Musicians Coming to Grace

Several WELS musicians will be coming to Grace in the coming weeks.

Sunday, February 4: Chris Driesbach will be at Grace-Vail for 9:00 AM Bible Class and 10:00 AM Worship.

Friday, February 9: Chris Driesbach will be at Grace-Tucson for a 7:00 PM Concert.

Wednesday, February 28: Branches Band will be at Grace-Tucson for the 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM worship services.

Sunday, March 4: Branches Band will be at Grace-Sahuarita for the 7:45 AM and 10:00 AM worship services.

Sunday March 4: Koine will be at Grace-Tucson for the 7:45 AM and 10:00 AM worship services.

Additional information about these musicians and events is given below:

Chris Driesbach

Today, WELS member and musician Chris Driesbach will lead the music for a special worship service at Grace-Vail at 10:00 AM, focusing on *Creation*. He will also share his story of becoming a Christian (a fascinating story from a former atheist) and sing more of his original songs during Bible Class at 9:00 AM. Chris will also offer at concert at Grace-Tucson on Friday, February 9 at 7:00 PM. On both days, he will have CDs available for purchase and congregation members will have an opportunity to make donations toward Chris' ministry. To learn more about Chris and his music, you can visit his website, www.ChrisDriesbach.com. *If you would like to see Chris but cannot attend on either of these days, he is offering another concert at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marana on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM.*

Branches Band

WELS musicians Andy and Rachel Braun of the Branches Band will lead our music in worship services on Wednesday, February 28 at Grace-Tucson for both the 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM midweek Lenten services. They will also lead worship music on Sunday, March 4 at Grace-Sahuarita for both the 7:45 AM and 10:00 AM worship services. Andy and Rachel travel around the country with this ministry, playing hymns and original songs based on Scripture. Their CDs and other merchandise will be available for purchase. Congregation members will also have an opportunity to make donations to support the ministry of the Branches Band. For more information about the group, please visit www.BranchedBand.com or [www.Facebook.com/BranchesBand](https://www.facebook.com/BranchesBand).

KOINE

WELS band KOINE will lead music in our worship services on Sunday, March 4 at Grace-Tucson for both the 7:45 AM and 10:00 AM worship services. The service they will be presenting is called *Footsteps to the Cross*, a very visual and moving musical narrative following Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to the cross. KOINE is an award winning worship band known for combining century-old hymns with modern accompaniment. After the services, their CDs and other merchandise will be available for purchase. Congregation members will also have an opportunity to make donations to support their music ministry. For more information about the group, please visit www.KoineMusic.com or [www.Facebook.com/Koine](https://www.facebook.com/Koine). *If you would like to see KOINE but cannot attend Grace-Tucson this morning or would like to hear more of their music, they will be presenting a concert featuring the hymns of Martin Luther at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marana on Sunday, March 4 at 6:00 PM.*



**Grace is one congregation
at FOUR places!**

**Enjoy worship, Bible study and activities
at Grace locations in
Benson, Sahuarita, Tucson and Vail.**

This Week at Grace • Feb 4 – Feb 11

TUCSON

Today

Worship Services with Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
Lifeliners: *Deal with It: School Issues* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
WELS TCM: *What Is Love?* 7:00p

Monday

English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

Tuesday

English as a Second Language Classes 6:30p

SAHUARITA

Today

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Means of Grace* 9:00a
Worship Services with Communion 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

Wednesday

Bible Study: *The Lord's Prayer* 10:00a

Sunday

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Means of Grace* 9:00a
Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

BENSON

Today

NO Worship Service

Sunday

Worship Service 7:30a

Wednesday

Midweek Bible Study: *Church History* 10:00a & 7:00p

Thursday

Women's Bible Study: *Key Bible Words* 9:00a
Handbell Practice 5:30p
Worship Choir Practice 6:30p

Friday

Chris Driesbach Concert 7:00p

Saturday

Women of Grace Valentine Tea 11:30a

Sunday

Worship Services 7:45 & 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following both services
Children's Sunday School 8:45a
Youth Confirmation Class 8:45a
Lifeliners: *Deal with It: School Issues* 9:00a
Adult Bible Study (Fellowship Hall):
• *Church-Mission-Ministry* 9:00a
WELS TCM: *Jesus' Most Famous Sermon* 7:00p

VAIL

Today

Chris Driesbach Presentation 9:00a

Creation Worship Service with Chris Driesbach 10:00a

Coffee Fellowship following worship

Wednesday

Ministry Center Office Hours 3:00p

Bible Study at Ministry Center: *Key Bible Words* 6:30p

Sunday

Children's Sunday School 9:00a
Youth Confirmation Class 9:00a
Adult Bible Study: *Heroes of Faith* 9:00a
Worship Service 10:00a
Coffee Fellowship following worship

**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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LIVING PROMISE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Matt Westra

January 30th, 2018

Dear saints at Grace Lutheran Church of Southern AZ,

Grace, mercy, and peace.

After much prayerful consideration I have decided to return the call to serve as pastor at Grace.

Thank you for extending to me the call. This was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made and I truly wrestled with it. It was an incredibly humbling thing to consider where I might serve and to ask God for wisdom and his blessings.

Part of what made this decision so difficult is knowing the people. I don't know all of the members at Grace but I know many of you and I know that you are some of the finest people to do ministry with in the entire world. All glory belongs to God alone but he has certainly blessed Grace with wonderful pastors and people whom I dearly love.

In considering both calls, however, it did not seem wise to at this time interrupt the growth that Living Promise has seen. Even as I wrestled with the call God continued to send many new people who needed the Gospel in Word and Sacraments.

As hard as it is to decline this call I do find joy knowing that distance doesn't separate us from being partners in the Gospel. The 1,887 miles that separate us now will seem like nothing as we cast our crowns before our King on that last day. You all are my brothers and sisters now and for eternity and nothing can change that.

Thank you to all who spoke with me on the phone and sent e-mails. Thank you to all of you who sent prayers to the throne of God. They always make a big difference.

I am confident that God will provide a wonderful pastor to Grace. There is so much to be thankful for at Grace and so much that is exciting. I know that God has the right pastor to fill the call you are extending. You all will continue to be in my prayers as you call for a pastor and especially as you continue your wonderful Gospel ministry in Southern AZ.

In everything our confidence and hope comes from him alone.

Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus,

Pastor Matt Westra

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Heb 10:23