

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parker, South Dakota

Rev. Don Reiffenberger, Pastor

Music Leaders: Shirley Oswald, Deone Christensen, Grace Reiffenberger, Michele Reiffenberger

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Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2020

## PRELUDE, VISUAL PRAYERS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Those who stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God, are blessed.

**All: We are blessed by following God's instructions, doing our best to seek God with all our hearts.**

Leader: God has prescribed the right way to live, the way that leads to health and happiness.

**All: Help us, Lord, to keep to the course you set, walking with steady steps all the way.**

Leader: Then we will not be looking back over our lives with regrets.

**All: Instead, we will have the comfort and joy of God's companionship all our days.**

Leader: Let us begin Worship by proclaiming our shared statement of mission and ministry:

**All: "We believe we are forgiven and saved by faith in Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. As people of God, through love, we are God's hands. We are called to invite and welcome everyone into the fellowship of believers. We worship together, teach His word, pray for, encourage and uplift each other. We witness to His love and forgiveness to our congregation, community and world." (Written by members from Grace Lutheran)**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Knowing that we fall short of the exceeding righteousness to which Jesus calls us, let us come before God to lay bare our guilt that we might be forgiven and made whole...

Holy and loving God, anger is often our weak spot.

**All: It fuels our resentments. It prevents us from letting go.**

Leader: It feeds our self-righteousness. We cling to anger as if it could save us, hoping it will protect us from pain and loss.

**All: But, it is all foolishness. Salvation is in trusting you to make all things right.**

Leader: Hope is found in keeping our eyes on you and on what you have done for us, rather than on others and how they have let us down.

**All: Forgive our short-sighted and self-inflicted foolishness, Lord. Restore us in love and grace to trust you in all things. Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

### PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: The power of Christ's liberating forgiveness sets us free from the anger and sin that surrounds us. Hear the Good News and believe: Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness and makes us a new creation.

**All: Thanks Be to God!**

### OPENING HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

ELW 742

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you.

**All: Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### THE FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

### THE READING RESPONSE

"Thanks Be to God!" (After each reading)

### RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalms 119:1-8

### THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"Into My Heart"* (Bells)

Sunday School Children

### KID TALK

*"Jesus Says..."*

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain **standing** for The Gospel)

### THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:21-37

(Pew Bible p. 3 – New Testament)

### GOSPEL RESPONSES

**"Glory to You, O Lord"** (After The Gospel is announced)

**"Praise to You, O Christ"** (After The Gospel is read)

### SERMON

*"Completing God's Law"*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Will You Come and Follow Me"*

ELW 798

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Congregational response after each petition of "Lord, in your mercy:" "Hear our prayer.")

RETURNING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"A checkbook is a theological document. It will tell you who and what you worship." ~Billy Graham~

Music Video – "Remind Me You're Here" (Jason Gray)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (repeat)  
And now, let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us. (repeat)  
Give thanks.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Leader: Accept these gifts we humbly offer, gracious God.

All: Use them, and use us, to reach into places where your mystery remains hidden, where your goodness is not yet known. Make us good stewards of your word. Make us responsible heirs of your promises, in Jesus' name. Amen.

COMMUNION PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT BY INTINCTION (Special Music played during Communion)

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Leader: Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

All: We long to follow you, O Lord.

Leader: Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart.

All: We long to see you and know you, O Lord.

Leader: We will praise you with upright hearts as we learn your righteous laws.

All: As we go forth, we will obey and follow you, knowing that you will never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another!

All: Thanks Be to God!

Welcome to Worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Grace and peace be with you all as we come before God. As we celebrate Holy Communion by Intinction this morning, we invite all baptized Christians who seek forgiveness and who believe in Christ's real presence in the Sacrament to join us at the altar. \*\*\* If you want Pastor Don to come to you with Communion, please let an usher know.\*\*\*



This Week at GRACE

- Today: 10:00 am: Sunday School
- Mon: 1:00 pm: Days for Girls
- Tues: 4:30 pm: Bread Give-Away @ Courthouse
- Wed: 4:00 pm: Pre-Confirmation
- 5:00 pm: Confirmation
- 6:30 pm: Worship (Holy Communion)
- 7:00 pm: Luther League
- 7:00 pm: Choir
- Sun: 9:00 am: Worship
- 10:00 am: Sunday School
- 10:00 am: Women's Bible Study
- 10:00 am: Church Council Retreat

Attendance 2/9/2020: 91

This week's offering total was \$3,029.00. This includes Sunday's and Wednesday's offerings, and direct EFT through First Savings Bank. We exceeded our weekly offering goal of \$2,900 which helps to ensure that all of our bills and salaries are paid timely!!

Thank you to the following people for helping with our Worship service this morning: Derik & Stacey Hazen, reader Lyla Johnson, greeters Andy & Jenn Wall & family, Communion Assistants Cam & Jenn Becker and Deb VanHove, and A/V assistant Lexi Even.

## Announcements:

Please note Grace Lutheran's new front door lock schedule:  
The main doors of the church will now be open every day from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.  
The west and south doors will remain on their existing schedule:  
Locked every day except Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.



Updates are being made to our military section of the bulletin board. Current and past members of the military and their photos are requested so the bulletin board can be updated. Please submit to the church office. Thank you!

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Every Wednesday during Lent, supper will once again be served before Worship at Grace. Each week, volunteers from the congregation will put on their "chef's hats" and will plan, prepare, and serve a meal. Lenten Suppers will be served every Wednesday during Lent from 5:30-6:15 pm beginning March 4. If you would like to help serve, please sign up on the bulletin board.



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