



HUMAN DISOBEDIENCE
DIVINE COMPASSION

Epiphany 3

January 21, 2024



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this New Year

To whom does the work of salvation belong? Simple question. There is only one Savior. But this is how good Jesus is: so that our lives might have profound meaning and eternal purpose, He shares some of that work with us. He calls us not just to be followers, but to be follower-*makers*. Jesus asks some—prophets, apostles, pastors, missionaries, teachers—to do this full time. But ultimately Jesus asks all believers to serve as His ambassadors, sharing the gospel with whomever He brings into our sphere of influence. This lofty charge requires commitment—a willingness to abandon everything else should faithfulness require it. This is the life-changing revelation for this week. Jesus has committed us to a lofty charge: the privilege to play a role in His saving work.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

Address: 6788 FM 115 - Scroggins, TX 75480
Phone: 903-860-3749
Website: www.graceneearthelake.com
Email: graceneearthelake@gmail.com
Facebook: facebook.com/graceneearthelake1
Prayer Requests: prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com
text to 520-236-9673

T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



WORSHIP SERVICE

743 I Hear the Savior Calling

CW 743



1 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! The gos - pel comes to me;
2 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He leads a soul to me,
3 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He gives this charge to me:
4 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! He chang - es hearts for me;
5 I hear the Sav-ior call - ing! His call has ur - gen - cy;



my eyes, once closed in blind - ness, are o - pened now to see
a soul in bit - ter an - guish, one need - ing to be free.
to serve the best I'm a - ble, what - e'er the call may be.
from door to door I wit - ness to share my Sav - ior's plea.
each mo - ment souls are dy - ing, soon comes e - ter - ni - ty.



that I my - self was help - less to live e - ter - nal - ly,
The gift I have to of - fer is Christ, my Lord's de - cree
Thus hand in hand with oth - ers who share the gos - pel key
Yet noth - ing can be add - ed, no word on bend - ed knee,
And so, my pre - cious Sav - ior, this is my hum - ble plea:



but, dy - ing, Christ did save me, and now he calls for me!
that all have been for - giv - en; my Sav - ior calls for me!
we spread the gos - pel ti - dings; my Sav - ior calls for me!
be - yond the sim - ple gos - pel; my Sav - ior calls for me!
pre - pare me for my mis - sion, for you are call - ing me!

Text: John C. Lawrenz, b. 1943

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–1874

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Tune: Public domain

Stand

Opening Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Verses / Confession & Absolution

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus has made peace between a Holy God and a world of sinners.

He has destroyed death and brought us life and immortality.

Bless Your children, O Lord, as we meditate upon Your Word,

That we may gain perspective on everything in life.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord:

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved You with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve Your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with His innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in Him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

C Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us. A - men.

The Lord has promised that if we confess our sins, He, who is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

God has had mercy upon you, and cleansed you from all wickedness. Rest assured that you have peace with God; that your sins are indeed forgiven in the Name of the Father, and the Son, † and the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God. We are now ready to serve our Lord with joyful hearts.

Let us then respond to this Good News and offer Him our very lives:

695 Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695 sts. 1–2

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Almighty God, You sent Your Son to proclaim Your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of Your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Jonah 3:1–5,10

¹Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

³Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

⁴Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

Psalm 62C My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

Psalm 62C / 818



1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp - ta - tions;
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com - plete - ly;



a for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.
curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



O praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;



ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Verse of the Day

Psalm 22:22

Alleluia. I will declare Your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise You. Alleluia.

695 Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695 st. 3

3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.





1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 The Sav - ior of all peo - ple has brought his peace to you;
 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.
 now go and tell the sto - ry, for oth - ers need it too.
 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;
 To ev - 'ry land and na - tion ring out the gos - pel call;
 And when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 pro - claim that Christ is ris - en and grants his peace to all.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



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.

Sermon

Jonah 3:1-5,10 "Modern Jonahs"



5 Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no long - er mine;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure store;



take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy roy - al throne.
take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

695 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

CW 695 st. 4



4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

Prayer of the Church

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and He separated the light from the darkness.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

Almighty God and Father, we thank You for all your mercies, especially for the gift of Your Son, through whom You have revealed Your gracious will. We praise You for the Holy Spirit and His working through the means of grace.

Plant Your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend Your Church, that by Your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of Your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve You in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Restore our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless the upcoming election this year and direct things in our country according to your grace and mercy.

Grant us leaders that govern in wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let Your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them Your love, and take them into Your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our personal prayers . . .

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

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.

Amen.



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -
 2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on
 3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and
 4 Hear now the Mas - ter's word to those who bear his



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in
 high; to live our hu - man life he came, our
 grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to
 name: "So send I you," till all have heard, "make



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and
 hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly
 those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and
 known, de - clare, pro - claim!" Go forth in all the



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the
 Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to
 peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es
 earth; em - brace the path he trod with Christ be -



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.
 share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.
 sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.
 side as friend and guide to bring good news of God.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible Classes

Please consider participating in one (or more) of our weekly classes – Genesis on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm / Revelation on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. The monthly Parables class on the last Friday of the month (10:30 am at Grace) with the men’s and women’s lunch out to follow at 11:30 am. *(The ladies are going to Luigis in Mt. Pleasant. The men can decide today after worship where they’d like to go.)*

Mystery Quilt Weekend

Mystery Quilt Weekend is coming up! This year it will be spread over two weekends which means more quilting fun! It will take place on February 9 & 10, and February 16 & 17 at the GMC. Speak with Pam for more information. Bring a friend!

Grow Conference

It's not too late to register for the Grow Conference! (the deadline is January 31) "The GROW Conference exists to bring together WELS lay members, both men and women, teachers, staff ministers, and pastors from across the South Central District to grow together in God’s Word and grow in our various roles within the church. Our growth takes place at the conference through keynote speakers, specialized workshops, cross pollination with various WELS areas of ministry and parachurch organizations, and ample fellowship opportunities with one another." Don't miss out on this opportunity unique to our district!! sc.wels.net/grow-home

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Jan. 24	3:00 pm	Genesis class
Jan. 25	6:00 pm	Revelation class
Jan. 26	10:30 am	Parables monthly Bible class
Jan. 26	11:30 am	Men’s and women’s lunch out
Jan. 28	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Jan. 31	3:00 pm	Genesis class