

# Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312

320-254-3249

[bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com](mailto:bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com)

**January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

*Welcome in Jesus' name.*

*We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.*



"David Ewart, [www.holytextures.com](http://www.holytextures.com)."

Lead Pastor Lisa Meshke, [pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)  
Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson, [bhandeljohnson@gmail.com](mailto:bhandeljohnson@gmail.com)  
Secretary, Sue Wiener

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude/Procession/Bells

“Morning has Broken”

ELW #556 (v. 1 and 3)

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin.  
Used by permission CCL License # 2275507

“This Is My Father's World”

ELW #824 (v. 1 and 3)

1 This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

3 This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW #856 (v. 1 and 4)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

## Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim,  
“My God, how great thou art!” **Refrain**

“How Great Thou Art” Music by: Stuart K. Hine Copyright 1981 S.K Hine  
Reprint by permission of CCLI License #2275507

## Welcome and Announcements

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.  
(Silence for Private Confession)

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.**

L: 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.**

### **\*Opening Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

ELW #779 (v.1 and 2)

1 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.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

"Amazing Grace" Music by: John Newton  
All Rights Reserved CCLI # 2275507

### **\*Apostolic Greeting:**

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

**And also with you.**

### **Hymn of Praise:** "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ELW #275 (v. 1 and 4)

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

**\*The Prayer of the Day:**

Holy God, **you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn:** "The B-I-B-L-E"

The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me,  
I stand alone on the work of God, the B-I-B-L-E.

**Scripture Reading**

Micah 6: 1-8

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." <sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup>He has told,

O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

L: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** "Lead Me, Guide Me" ELW #768 (v. 1 and 2)  
Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
REFRAIN

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. REFRAIN

**Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 15**

L: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon  
your holy hill?

**C. Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who  
speak the truth from their heart;**

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**C. In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear  
the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their  
word.**

L: They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the  
innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

**Hymn:** "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" ELW #774 (v.1 and 2)  
1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

## Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

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. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: Word of God, Word of Life.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** "Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW #781 (v. 1 and 2)

1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God his own doth tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
in his mighty arms he bears them.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**Children's Sermon** "Jesus Loves Me"

ELW 595 (v. 1 and 2)

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me,

yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

**\*Gospel Acclamation:** "Be Thou My Vision"

ELW #793 (v. 1 and 4)

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

**\*Holy Gospel:**

**Matthew 5: 1-12**

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Matthew.

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

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

Sermon

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

ELW #800 (v.1)

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,  
and make me love you as I ought to love.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

“Silent Night”

ELW #281 (v. 1)

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

ELW #325 (v.1)

I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

ELW #860 (v.1)

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,  
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.

Text: African American spiritual

**Hymn:** “Here I Am, Lord”

ELW #574 (v. 1 and 3)

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Text © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



### **\*Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **\*Prayers of the People** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

ELW #742

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
oh, what needless pain we bear--  
all because we do not carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

### **\*Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

**Offering:** (children may bring offerings forward)

**Offertory Hymn:**

“In the Garden”

1 I come to the garden alone  
while the dew is still on the roses,  
and the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain

And He walks with me, and He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own.  
And the joy we share, as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.

2 He speaks and the sound of His voice  
is so sweet the birds hush their singing  
And the melody that He gave to me  
Within my heart is ringing.

© Words: Public Domain  
Music: Public Domain

**Offertory Prayer:**

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, **Amen.**

**\*The 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.**

**Hymn:** "It Is Well with My Soul"

ELW #785 (v. 1 and 4)

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

**Refrain**

It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

**\*Benediction:**

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

**\*Sending Hymn:** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

ELW #290 (v. 1)

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

**\*Dismissal:**

**L:** Go in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.

**C: Thanks be to God.**