

WELCOME TO GRACE: We rejoice over your presence this day as we gather in the Name and in the worship of our Lord. If you are a GUEST with us today, we hope you feel welcome in our church family and invite you to worship with us again. If you are interested in membership at Grace or want to know more about our church and our faith, please indicate your interest on the ATTENDANCE FORM in the pew.

Grace's Mission

✝ Sharing God's Grace

✝ Living His Word

✝ Making Disciples

Grace Lutheran Church is one of more than six thousand congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

We Believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the sole source for all Christian teaching and practice. *II Timothy 3:16*

We Believe "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

We Believe "by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We Believe our relationship with everyone is based upon Jesus' words: "Love one another as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

Child Care We care about your children. We encourage parents with small children to help them participate in our worship. We ask you to have your children go to the restroom and get a drink before the service, and refrain from leaving during worship, unless there is an emergency. We have available a cry room equipped with sound located at the back of the sanctuary. Children's bulletins with activities are available.

Hearing Impaired For those who need assistance, please ask an usher for a wireless hearing aid. They are easy to use.

 **WORSHIP FOLDER** 

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

“PREPARING FOR THE PROMISE FULFILLED”

AS WE GATHER

The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

[If your health limits you, please don't feel required to stand during the worship service.]



*In the Name of the
Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit*



PRELUDE

CHIMES CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

✠ SERVICE OF PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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

P The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God's promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father's love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

C **Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.**

P How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

C **They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.**

P For with You is the fountain of life;

C **in Your light do we see light."**

(All Advent candles are lit.)

OPENING HYMN

(Please Stand for Last Stanza)

LSB 357

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain**

**6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain**

**7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 32:5; 80:7; 124:8

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
- P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
- C** **Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.
- C** **Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.
- C** **Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those that believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.
- C** **Amen.**

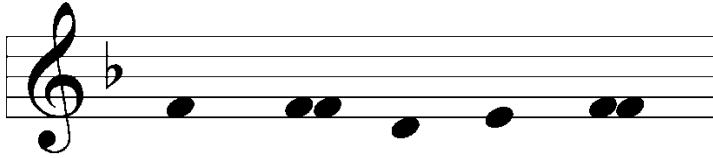
KYRIE

LSB 204

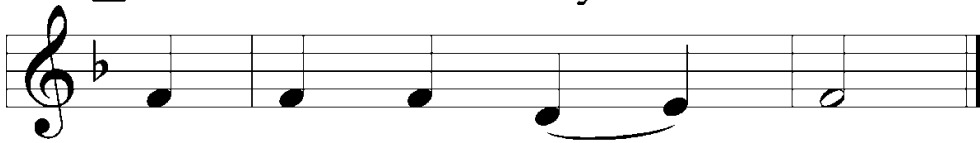


C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P Into the darkness, You bring light, and into our lives, You make known Your perfect and everlasting love.

C **Make us ready for the celebration of our Savior's birth, that we receive Him as He comes to us as a humble infant, bringing to fruition the new covenant of Your love;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

(please be seated)

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

(The coming King born in Bethlehem)

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

PSALM 80:1-7

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

P Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

C stir up Your might and come to save us!

P Restore us, O God;

C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

C You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

P You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

EPISTLE

HEBREWS 10:5-10

(Jesus comes to do God's will.)

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

VERSE AND ALLELUIA

P Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia. *(Matthew 1:23a)*



C Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 1:39-45

(Messengers from John the Baptist)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when

the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

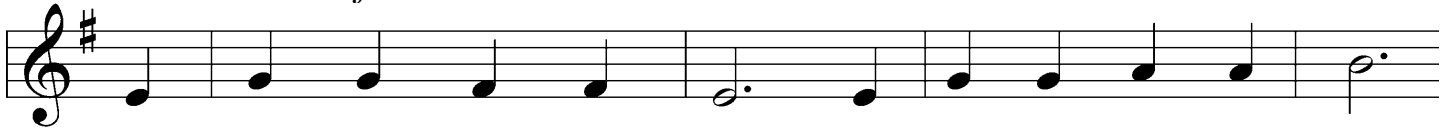


G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB 431

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
 2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
 3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
 4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
 5 Be - liev - ing, we re - jice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
 A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
 While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
 When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
 We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text and tune: Public domain

(please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON TITLE: *“HE SHALL BE THEIR PEACE”*

(please stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

OFFERTORY

LSB 192



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

(please be seated)

WE OFFER OUR FIRST FRUITS

(Financial support of Grace Lutheran Church is considered a privilege of membership. Although all offerings are welcome, we do not expect them from our visitors.)

VOLUNTARY

JOYFUL CHORUS

“Gabriel’s Message”

(please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with,

P Let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

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.**

CLOSING SENTENCES

John 1:5, 9

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

C The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN TO DEPART

LSB 352

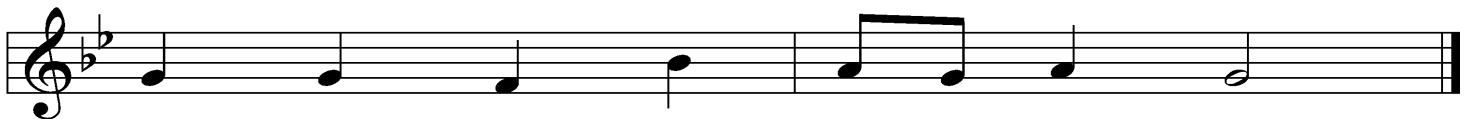
“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

**5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

**6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE

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To God Alone Be the Glory **THOSE WHO SERVE**

Interim Pastor	Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey
Organist.....	Virginia DeBerry
Joyful Chorus Director	Pat Lufholm
Acolyte.....	Cadence Hall
Elders	Todd Byars / Mark Zimmerman
Reader.....	Bryson Powell
Ushers	Steve DeShaw
.....	Pete Lufholm
.....	Mark Zimmerman
.....	Jeremy Grabow
Altar Guild	Cindy Hilton / Carol Massie
Teller.....	Hope Molina
Nursery Attendant	Juli McCann

GRACE PRAYS

We continue to pray for the following:

- Protection for our armed forces and strength for their families.
- Wisdom for our nation’s leaders.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Pastor Ramey and his family.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Ms. Carol.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- Our ECP.

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

- ❖ Mike Barbian, Charles Colgan, Mary Ann Johnston, Mary Morgan, Diane Richey, Melinda Richmond & David Stock.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ❖ Susan Johnson (Virginia DeBerry's mom) will have surgery to remove her left kidney due to cancer was rescheduled to 1/20/25.
- ❖ Margie Norton is doing well. She has a few more weeks of PT ahead of her.
- ❖ Chuck (Khristi Moritz's father-in-law) is battling lymphoma & has a blood clot in his lung. The procedures went well and he's home. Chemo started 12/11.

PRAYERS OF MOURNING

- ❖ Gail Granat died on 12/13.

Grace Lutheran Church – LCMS

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Carol Massie, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Life.....638-4153
Mrs. Amy Hoppman, Early Childhood Director.....894-7027
Ms. Victoria J. Crawson, Church Office Administrator 626-484-9723
Lea Keese, Parish Nurse.....634-2580

PLEASE SEE GRACE IN ACTION FOR THE WEEK'S CALENDAR
AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE