

# GRACE

The Holy Communion First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

# WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**We welcome you** in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the perforated page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate. Welcome!

**Children's resources**, including activity bags, worship bulletins and booster seats, are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

**Nursery care** is provided at both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located across from Fellowship Hall. From the atrium, go through the Lamb Door by the elevator, up half a flight of stairs and turn right. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, up the stairs and turn left. A silent paging system allows the nursery staff to contact parents when needed.

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Bill and Ellen Pullin in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Assistance in Worship**: For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Thank you.

**In Holy Communion** the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

**Educational opportunities** occur between worship services at 9:45. Topics and locations for classes are listed at the end of this bulletin under "This Week at Grace."

**Grace Council Statement on Racism**: Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow. The days are surely coming! Yes, Christmas is coming and for many of us this is a time of busy preparation. But as we enter Advent today, we are called to a different sort of preparation. Today, our readings point us not toward the birth of Jesus but to his return. The Kingdom of God is near, Jesus tells us. We can neither hasten nor delay its coming, and none who live upon the earth can avoid it. But we need not live in fear. Long ago the prophet foretold a righteous Branch that would spring up with salvation. We shall one day live in peace. In the hope of that promise, we can live now seeking the justice and righteousness of God. Let us stay alert, alive to the presence of the Christ who is with us now and who shall come again in glory.



Photo by Al Swanson

# + GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach

#### We stand.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- G Amen.
- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen.
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.
   As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

#### **Kyrie**





#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

#### **G** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

• Amen.

## + WORD +

#### We sit.

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



#### PSALM 25:1-10

ANTIPHON: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Antiphon by Jeremy Zimmer L To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my | trust in you;\* let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph | over me. **C** Let none who look to you be | put to shame;\* let the treacherous be disappointed | in their schemes. L Show me your | ways, O LORD,\* and teach | me your paths. **C** Lead me in your | truth and teach me,\* for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long. L Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,\* for they are from | everlasting. **C** Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;\* remember me according to your love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD. L Gracious and upright | is the LORD;\* therefore he teaches sinners | in his way. **G** He guides the humble in | doing right\* and teaches his way | to the lowly. L All the paths of the LORD are | love and faithfulness\* to those who keep his covenant and his | testimonies. G For your name's | sake, O LORD,\* forgive my sin, for | it is great.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.



#### HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- **P** The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit. CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Ready or Not

Pastor David R. Lyle Luke 21:25–36

# *We stand.* **HYMN OF THE DAY**: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



(11:00) Stanza two is sung by the choir in a harmonization by John Rutter.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

#### NICENE CREED

- **P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
- 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

#### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

#### **G** hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

- Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G Amen.

## + MEAL +

#### PEACE OF CHRIST

- **C** And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### We sit. **OFFERING**

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace. Visit <u>GraceRiverForest.org</u> to give online.

VOLUNTARY: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Benjamin Kolodziej

We stand and sing as the gifts are presented. **OFFERTORY VERSE**: Ezekiel 37:26–27

Robert Wetzler

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before them and make their footsteps a way.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**P** Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

#### G Amen.



- ${\ensuremath{\mathbb P}}$  Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.
- **P** The gifts of God for the people of God.
- C Thanks be to God.
- **P** Come, for all is now ready.

#### We sit. AGNUS DEI



#### COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized. The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

Please remove your mask as you approach the head of the aisle, where we receive the consecrated wafer and then drink from one of the individual cups.

Non-alcoholic wine is in the center of the tray. Those with a gluten allergy may pick up a gluten-free host from the table at the head of the aisle.

#### MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION



#### Refrain Cantor, then All

1. In this place shall be heard again the sounds of joy and gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the bride.

#### Refrain All

- 2. In this place shall be heard again the voices of those who sing, offering praise in the house of the LORD.
  - "Give thanks to the LORD of hosts, for the LORD is good, and the steadfast love of the LORD endures forever."

#### Refrain All

3. In those days, says the LORD I will raise up a righteous Branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land.

#### Refrain All

4. In those days and at that time

Judah will triumph,

Jerusalem will live in safety.

And this shall be the name

of the one who comes to reign:

"The LORD God is our righteousness."



Text: African American spiritual Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

#### We stand.

#### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- G Amen.
- We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- G Amen.

## + SENDING +

#### BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen.





Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

#### DISMISSAL

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

#### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

8:30		11:00
Amy Claud	Deacon	Paulette Reddel
Mary Margaret Bartley and Paul Eichwedel	Lectors	Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson and Karen Rohde
Anne Claud and Graham Shea	Crucifer/Bible Beare	r Emily Jones and Lucy Williams
Donna Serpico and Marilyn Moehlenkamp	Altar Guild	Scott and Linda Street
Richard Calhoun and Thomas Ewert	Ushers	
Lawrence Caponigri and Donna Serpico	Gift Bearers	
Al Swanson and Julie Hinz I	Livestream Audio/Vid	eo
-	Choir	Parish Choir

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## LET US PRAY...

#### Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Diane Amati Annalise Balock Cathy Barker Anne-Marie Bogdan Larry Caponigri Rosemary Cheatem Hans Dumpys Louis Elia David Gruendler Don Heimburger Patricia Herendeen Bob Jandeska Amy Juel Nancy Kaufman Phyllis Kersten Jerry Koenig

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker) Kay Armstrong (mother of Neal Armstrong) Pat B. (friend of Pat Anderson) Javed Bachew (relative of Susan Franzone) Frances Benson (sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat) Karen Berglund (friend of Carol Stanger) Florence Breed (cousin of Irmgard Swanson) Susan Cahill (cousin of Randy Schnack) Jamie Carpenter (cousin of Jay and Scott Christopher) Stella Dillberg (mother of Gretchen Weaver) Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner) James Flutch (nephew of Valerie Spiller) Nathan Forsyth (friend of Paul Nelson) Benjamin Galiher (nephew of Paul May) Chandramma Gantepalli (mother of Hena Gantepalli) Luke Gawencka (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Michael Granato (grandson of Virginia Walker) Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening) Nola Gustafson (friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner) Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke) Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason) Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) Margaret Hofmaier (mother of Barbara Hofmaier) Alice Hollis (friend of Marge Sanger) June Hostetler (aunt of Larry Garber) Judy Johnson (Grace School alum) Ellen Kanik (friend of Eileen Maggio) Allison Heppner (daughter-in-law of Kenneth and Marilyn Heppner) Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson) Patrick Kennedy (friend of Grace Church) Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten) **David Kopp** (friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner) Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson) Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson) Maxx Kusper (friend of Deb Maxwell) Beth Luebbe and family (sister of Jenny Luebbe) Ken Lukes (friend of George and Nancy Wohlford)

Scott Krueger Karen Lemke Carolyn Martin Karen McMahon Dave Moeller Jennifer Murtoff Paul Nelson Ruth Rehwaldt Taylor Reynolds Marnie Rourke Pat Scala Jim Scherer Cameron Valencia

Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli) Ellen MacGregor (friend of Chrissy Nelson) Tom Maggio (brother of Joe Maggio) Esther Martz (friend of Susie Calhoun) Melina Masihi (friend of Chrissy Nelson) Neal Mast (relative of Susan and David Franzone) Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell) Duncan McEachern (brother-in-law of John Reynolds) Carole Nelson (mother of Michael Nelson) Dolores Pelz (cousin of Evelyn Grams) Elaine Pierce (friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson) Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt) Sarah Ponder (friend of Hans and Donna Dumpys) James Powers (friend of Al Swanson) Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott) Mark Redheffer (son of Virginia Walker) Paula Rosenberger (friend of Janet Sylvester) Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko) Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner) Huxley Shoup and family (friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten) Lee Stephens (brother of Tony) Pastor Steve Swanson (friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner) Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester) Donald Tegeler (friend of Debbie Conley) Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone) Ilene Thompson (sister of Marilyn Heppner) Jan Thomson (sister-in-law of Christine Phillips) Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel) Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz) Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen) Karen Wischhusen (sister of Ann Mason) Nancy & Dick Woodka (friends of Susan & David Franzone) Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher) Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

#### **Benevolence** ministries

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

#### For those who mourn

Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran) Ginny Sorenson (friend of Rhea Sprecher)

#### Those serving in the armed services

Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout) Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks) Kellyn Daly (niece of Heidi and Chad Bohlmann) E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting) Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz) Matthew Grosz (nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner)

#### Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher)

#### Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak *(Germany)* Drew Krueger *(England)* 

#### Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton Carolyn Martin Christopher Davis Barbara Rinnan Gloria Hillert Kathleen Wrobel Joan Koerber

#### Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oakhill Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Zachery Grosz (great-nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner) Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher) Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone) Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie) Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat) Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

#### **TODAY, NOVEMBER 28**

Library Open for Self-Service	8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Worship Services – Holy Communion	

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

Edward Borg Visitation	.10:00 a.m.
Memorial Service for Edward Borg	. 11:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

GriefShare (Church Library	)	p.m.
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#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

School Chapel	8:25 a.m.
Cornerstones-Fellowship & Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Advent Morning Prayer	11:00 a.m.
Lunch	
Advent Supper	6:00 p.m.
Advent Evening Prayer	
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Social Ministry Committee (Conference room & online)...... 7:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Overeaters Anonymous	(Virtual)	9:00 a.m.

#### Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S)	
PHONE NUMBER	

Check all that apply:

- □ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- □ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- **I** am interested in a path toward membership.
- **I** would like to know more about Grace School.
- □ I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail, Sunday Is Coming.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me via (check one) D Phone or D E-mail.



7300 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus Michael D. Costello, Cantor Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor William Koehne, Principal Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager José Meza, Technology Manager

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ