



Holy Communion  
The Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2021  
10:45 p.m.

# WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

**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 and large print bulletins are available in the back of the church and from the ushers.

**Cell Phones and Pagers** Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

**Holy Communion** 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 is host.

**Bulletin Cover** The bulletin cover art is by Nola Williams, a student at Grace Lutheran School.

# ✠ GATHERING ✠

## PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella

Traditional French Carol  
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella!  
Bring a torch, to the cradle run!  
It is Jesus, good folk of the village;  
Christ is born and Mary's calling:  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is the mother!  
Ah! Ah! Beautiful is her Son!  
  
It is wrong when the child is sleeping,  
It is wrong to talk so loud;  
Silence, all, as you gather around,  
Lest your noise should waken Jesus.  
Hush! Hush! See how fast he slumbers;  
Hush! Hush! See how fast he sleeps.

Softly to the little stable,  
Softly for a moment, come;  
Look and see how charming is Jesus,  
How he is still, his eyelids closing.  
Hush! Hush! See how the child is sleeping;  
Hush! Hush! See how he smiles in dreams.

Traditional French; *tr.* Edward Cuthbert Nunn, 1869–1914, *alt.*

Still, Still, Still

Traditional Austrian Carol  
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*  
  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you,  
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number  
Watch you as you sweetly slumber,  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. *Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Traditional Austrian carol, *tr.* anonymous

Oh, Come, Little Children

*Ihr Kinderlein, kommet*  
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all  
To Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall.  
And see with rejoicing this glorious sight  
Our Father in heaven has sent us this night.

Oh, see in the manger, in hallowed light,  
A star throws its beams on this holiest sight.  
In clean swaddling clothes lies the heavenly child,  
More lovely than angels, this baby so mild.

Oh, there lies the Christ child, on hay and on straw;  
The shepherds are kneeling before him in awe.  
And Mary and Joseph smile on him with love,  
While angels are singing sweet songs from above.

Now, go, little children, go tell of Christ's birth:  
How this baby Jesus from God came to earth.  
He brings us God's mercy, he brings us God's grace;  
He brings peace and love to the whole human race.

St. 1–3, Christoph von Schmid; 1768–1854, *tr.* Anonymous;  
St. 4, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962

Cradle Hymn

Kim André Arnesen

Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber,  
Holy angels guard thy bed!  
Heavenly blessings without number  
Gently falling on thy head.

See the kindly shepherds round him,  
Telling wonders from the sky!  
When they sought him, there they found him,  
With his virgin mother by.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;  
Lovely infant, how he smiled!  
When he wept, the mother's blessing  
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.

May'st thou live to know and fear him,  
Trust and love him all thy days;  
Then go dwell forever near him,  
See his face, and sing his praise!

Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

*We stand and face the processional cross as we sing.*

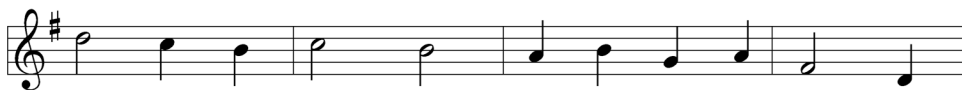
**ENTRANCE HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful**



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! Oh,  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



*Refrain*  
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, oh, come, let us a - dore him,



oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

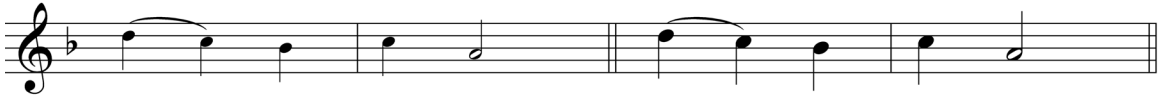
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

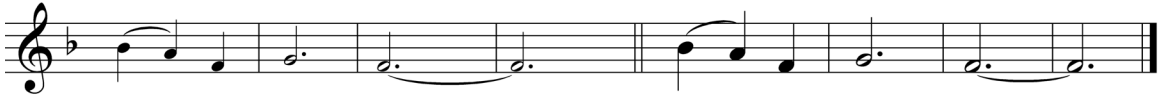
## KYRIE



**A** Lord, have mer-cy. **C** Lord, have mer-cy.



**A** Christ, have mer - cy. **C** Christ, have mer - cy.



**A** Lord, have mer - cy. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest

*We sing the Refrain as printed below; the choir sings the verses.*



**C** Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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**Choir** Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

### **C** REFRAIN

**Choir** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us;  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

### **C** REFRAIN

**Choir** For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **C** REFRAIN

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.  
Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence  
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;  
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*We sit.*

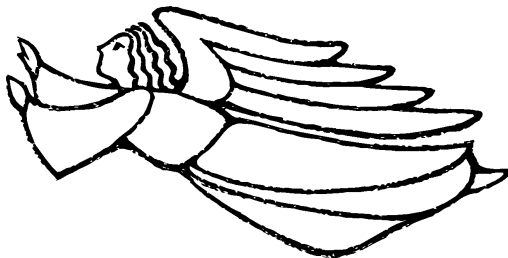
## ✝ WORD ✝

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad!

- L** Sing to the LORD | a new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.
- C** Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;\*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.
- L** Declare his glory a- | mong the nations\*  
and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- C** For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;\*  
he is more to be feared | than all gods.
- L** As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;\*  
but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.
- C** Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!\*
- Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!
- L** Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;\*  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- C** Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;\*  
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.
- L** Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;\*  
let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.
- C** Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!\*
- He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”
- L** Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all | that is in it;\*  
let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- C** Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy before the LORD | when he comes,\*  
when he comes to | judge the earth.
- L** He will judge the | world with righteousness\*  
and the peoples | with his truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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



*We stand and sing stanzas one and two of the Sequence Hymn, facing the cross in procession.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er-last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car-nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

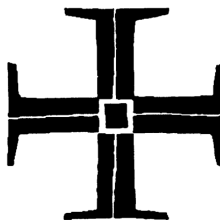
**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sing stanza three of the Sequence Hymn, printed on the previous page, facing the cross in procession.*

*We sit.*

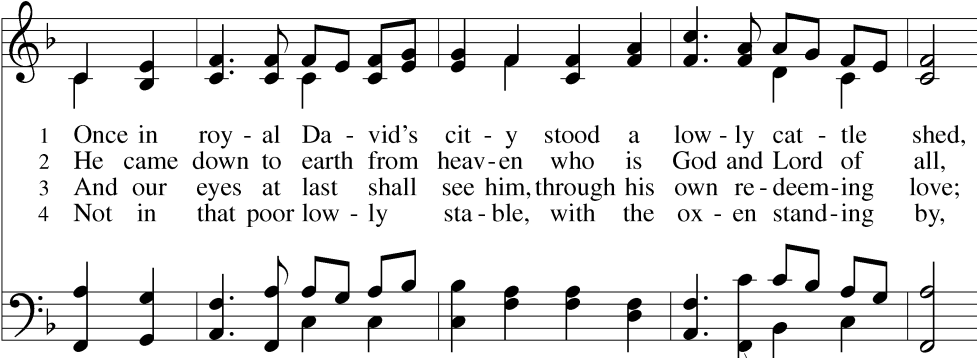
**SERMON**

Pastor David R. Lyle



## HYMN OF THE DAY: Once in Royal David's City

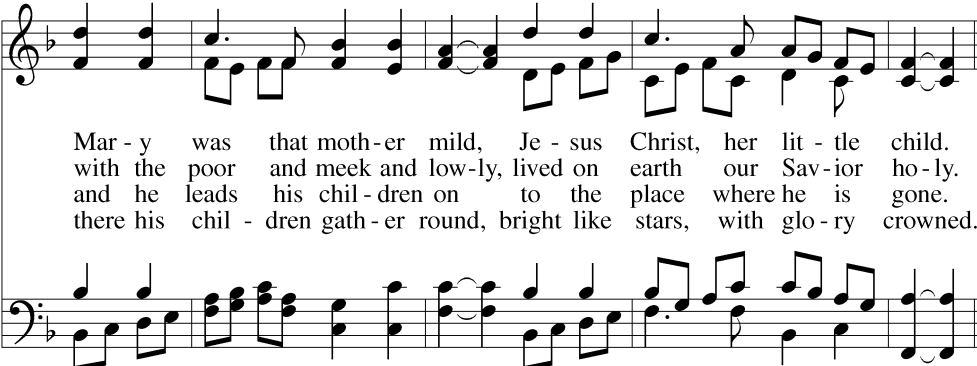
*Stanza one is sung by a soloist; we stand and join in singing stanzas two through four.*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil-dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath-er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

## NICENE CREED

**P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

**C** 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,

**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

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

**C** Amen.

# ✠ MEAL ✠

## PEACE OF CHRIST

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ 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 [GraceRiverForest.org](http://GraceRiverForest.org) to give online.*

**ANTHEM:** The People That Walked in Darkness (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 9:2

*We stand and sing as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY:** The People Who Walked in Darkness

Richard Hillert

The peo - ple who walked in  
dark - ness have seen a great light. Al - le - lu - ia.  
The light has shined on the na - tions who live in the shad - ow of  
death A - rise, be clothed in light. Your light has come.  
Al - le - lu - ia. Though dark - ness cov - ers the earth, the

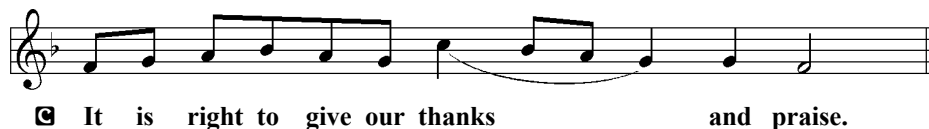
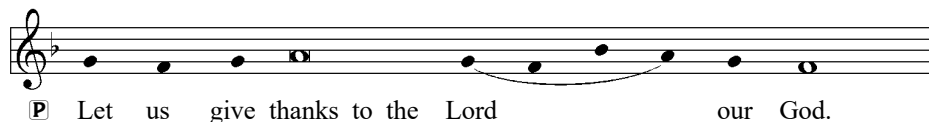


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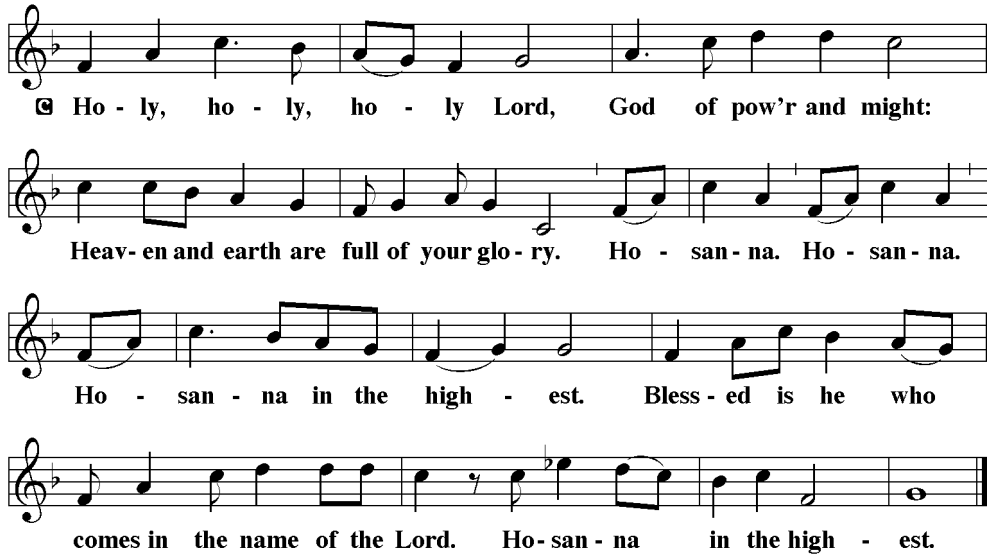
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,  
**C** 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.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

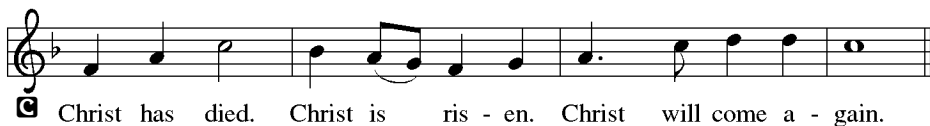


- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
 You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.  
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.  
 We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.  
 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.  
 For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
 we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



**C** Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

**P** Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
 and the promise of his coming again,  
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
 not as we ought but as we are able;  
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people  
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



**C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

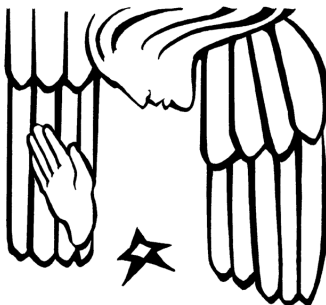
## COMMUNION

*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.*



## ANTHEM: He Is Born

*Il est né le divin enfant*  
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

*The choir introduces the refrain; we join in singing each time thereafter.*

He is born, the ho - ly Child, play the o - boe and  
bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the ho - ly  
Child, sing we all of the Sav - ior mild.

**Choir** Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming.  
Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last:

### **C** REFRAIN

**Choir** O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven.  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind!

### **C** REFRAIN

**Choir** Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace.

### **C** REFRAIN

## HYMN: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;  
1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!  
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!  
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;  
4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;  
5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;

da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.  
 Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.  
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.  
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.  
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.  
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959  
 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863  
 Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# HYMN: Once Again My Heart Rejoices

1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es as I hear, far and near,  
 2 Hark! A voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, does en - treat,  
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and small,  
 sweet - est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born" their choirs are sing - ing,  
 "Flee from woe and dan - ger; come and see; from all that grieves you  
 kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is yearn - ing;  
 till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
 hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
 Music: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

*We stand.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

**A** Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,  
and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.  
Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth  
this day and evermore; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*Those at the end of each pew receive the flame from the usher's candle  
and pass the light across the pew, remembering to tilt the unlit candle into the flame.*

**CANDLELIGHTING/ANTHEM:** Before the Marvel of This Night

Carl F. Schalk

Before the marvel of this night  
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light  
And with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
That fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,  
Since peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,  
This is the day the Lord has made,  
Assemble here, celestial throng,  
In royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
A teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,  
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,  
Our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown,  
Now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
That rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love,  
Sing love, sing God is love!

Jaroslav J. Vajda

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### BENEDICTION

**P** May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph,  
the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child.  
Almighty God: the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING HYMN: Silent Night

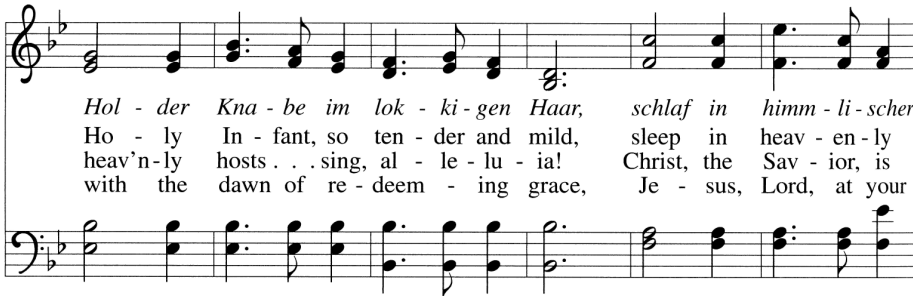
*We sing stanza one in German, followed by all three stanzas of the English text.*



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,*  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



*Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

*We sit and listen to the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE:** Meditation on Silent Night

David Conte

## **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*We extinguish our candles. The ushers will collect the candles at the door as you leave.*

## **LEADING WORSHIP**

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Lori Martin, deacon

Rich Schubkegel, assisting minister

Mary Margaret Bartley and Sandy Lentz, lectors

Donna Serpico and Laurie Schubkegel, gift bearers

Donna Serpico and Laurie Schubkegel, altar guild

Grace Parish Choir

Meg Lanfear, violin I

Henry Zheng, violin II

Claudia Lasareff-Mironoff, viola

Jean Hatmaker, cello

Ann Anderson, flute

Meg Busse, oboe

Douglas Anderson, baritone soloist

Ngaire Whiteside-Bull, soprano soloist

Julie Hinz and Al Swanson, livestream audio/video

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## **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT GRACE**

### **Christmas Day, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

### **The First Sunday of Christmas, December 26**

One Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

### **New Year's Eve, December 31**

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion

### **The Name of Jesus, January 1**

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

### **The Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred), January 2**

One Service of Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Brunch follows the service in Fellowship Hall

## **POINSETTIAS**

**Poinsettias are sponsored to the glory of God by the following individuals:**

Neal and Esther Armstrong

Dianne Laux

Al and Irmgard Swanson, in memory of their parents

Beverly White

# 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

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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) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

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CHURCH  
& SCHOOL

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

**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