



Holy Communion
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 2021
10:00 a.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.

Nursery Care Nursery care is provided for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located in the former preschool classroom, 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.

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 Annalise Johnstone, a student at Grace Lutheran School.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: *In dulci jubilo* (“In quiet joy”), Op. 28, No. 41

Marcel Dupré

We face the processional cross as we sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Joy to the World

(green) **LBW #39**



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3. No more let sin and sor - row grow thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, *alt.*

Tune: ANTIOCH, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

APOSTOLIC GREETING

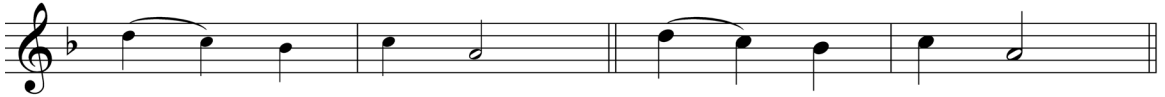
☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

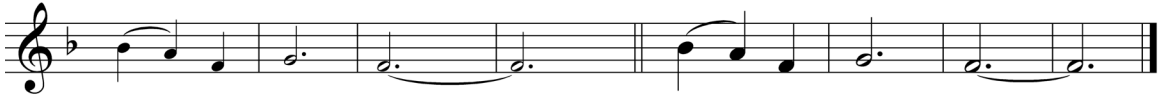
KYRIE



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 wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature.
In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ
who came to share our humanity,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

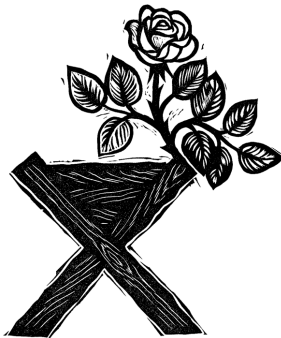
✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: All of the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- L Sing to the Lord | a new song,*
 for he has done | marvelous things.
- C **With his right hand and his | holy arm***
has he won for him- | self the victory.
- L The Lord has made | known his victory;*,
 his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
- C **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,***
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- L Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;*,
 lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- C **Sing to the LORD | with the harp,***
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- L With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*,
 shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- C **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,***
the lands and those who | dwell therein.
- L Let the rivers | clap their hands*,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to | judge the earth.
- C **In righteousness shall he | judge the world***
and the peo- | ples with equity.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

We stand.

SEQUENCE HYMN: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Harmonization by J. S. Bach
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
And usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
But hear the angel's warning.
This child, now weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be,
The power of Satan breaking,
Our peace eternal making.

Johann Rist, 1607–1667; *tr.* 1873, John Troubeck, 1832–1899, *alt.*

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
To herald our salvation;
He stoops to earth, the God of might,
Our hope and expectation.
He comes in human flesh to dwell,
Our God with us, Immanuel,
The night of darkness ending,
Our fallen race befriending.

Norman E. Johnson, 1928–1983, © 1973, 1996 Covenant Publications

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Troy E. Medlin

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Of the Father's Love Begotten

(green) **LBW #42**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be -
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

Giving is one of the ways we participate in all that God is doing through Grace.

Visit GraceRiverForest.org to give online.

We stand and sing as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY: The People Who Walked in Darkness

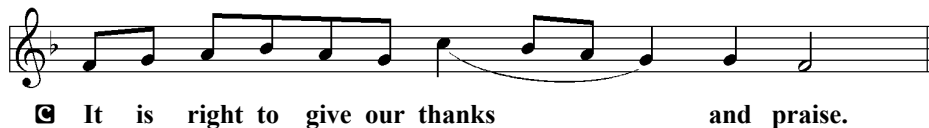
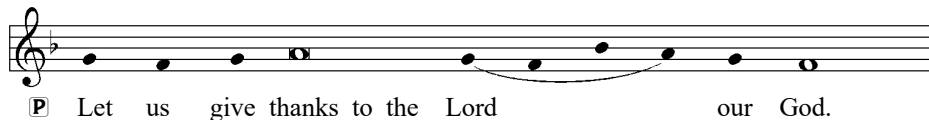
Richard Hillert

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
Lord will shine up - on you. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

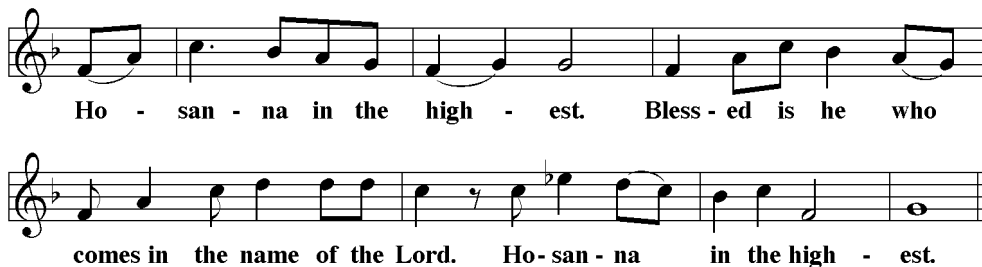
- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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:





☐ You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

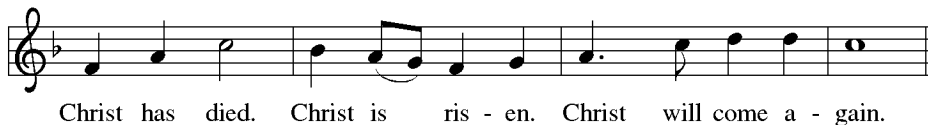
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

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.



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.



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.



MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

ANTHEM: What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES, English Ballad
Setting by Robert A. Hobby

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

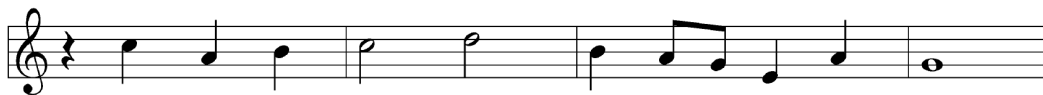
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own him.
The king of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

William C. Dix, 1837–1898





1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



when an - gels clove the sky with song and light
 the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
 in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
 How else could I have loved you, O my God!



and God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—
 the wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
 in bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—
 How else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Music: SCHNEIDER, Paul Manz, 1919–2009

Text © 1984 Jaroslav J. Vajda, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

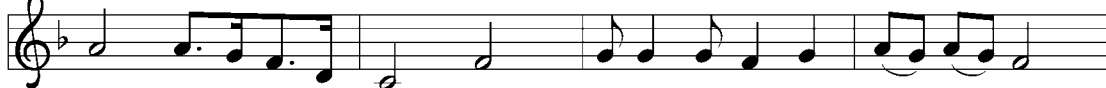
C **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

(green) LBW #70

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

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

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Matthew Machemer

LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister

Julie Hinz, assisting minister

Al Swanson, deacon

Aiden Koehne and Rhea Sprecher, lectors

Carolyn Becker and Gale Schmidt, gift bearers

Linda and Scott Street, altar guild

Grace Parish Choir

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Scott Schwar, usher

Andrew Costello and Justin Martin,
livestream audio/video

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

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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) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

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) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

GRACE
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CHURCH
& SCHOOL

7300 Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
Phone: (708) 366-6900
Fax: (708) 366-0966
www.graceriverforest.org
gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

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