



GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**The Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
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 most 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.

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.

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Elyse Mach in honor of Pastor Dean Lueking.

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.

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.

As We Gather

The last we saw John the Baptist, he was full of fiery certainty. The Messiah is coming, and things are going to change! Today, we see John later in the story, but doubt seems to have crept in. Axes don't seem to have fallen; the chaff remains ungathered. To make matters worse, John finds himself imprisoned. Death is not far off. Was he wrong about Jesus? Should he wait for another? No, Jesus says, pointing to a different set of signs: the blind see and the lame walk. Good news is proclaimed. Jesus affirms John's status as the forerunner, but points to a Kingdom beyond even John's ability to grasp. In this new world, the greatest and the least shall find themselves all together. But it won't happen right away. We wait not for another, but we do wait for Jesus. Be patient, James writes, urging us to dig deep into this time of Advent. Jesus will come again, but perhaps not how we'd expect, and perhaps not how we'd prefer. But he's coming. Be patient. Hope will not disappoint.

✝ GATHERING ✝

PRELUDE: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Michael D. Costello

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

- ☐ God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

☑ **Amen.**

We stand and face the cross in procession.

ENTRANCE HYMN: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

(green) **LBW #23**

(11:00) Stanzas two and four are sung by the choir.



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore you green boughs and fair - est palms;
- 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
- 4 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
and I, too, will a - dore you with joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
and from your name shall nev - er with - hold the hon - or due.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.

5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
 who sit in deepest gloom,
 who mourn your joys departed
 and tremble at your doom.
 Despair not; he is near you,
 there, standing at the door,
 who best can help and cheer you
 and bids you weep no more.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
 a terror to his foes,
 a light of consolations
 and blessed hope to those
 who love the Lord's appearing.
 O glorious Sun, now come,
 send forth your beams so cheering
 and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johan Crüger, 1598–1662

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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



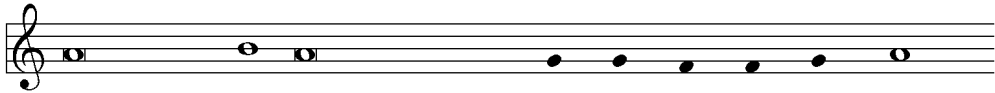
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,
and strengthen our faith in your coming,
that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

📖 The Word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4–9

ANTIPHON: The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed. Michael D. Costello

- L** Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,*
whose hope is in the | Lord their God;
- C** who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;*
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;
- L** who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,*
and food to | those who hunger.
- C** The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind;*
the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;
- L** the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares | for the stranger;*
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- C** The Lord shall | reign forever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: James 5:7–10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Matthew 11:10

John Ferguson

Choir Alleluia. Alleluia.

C REFRAIN (*below*)



Choir I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.

C REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

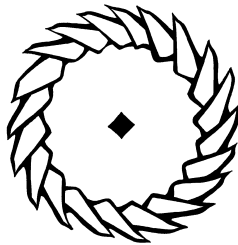
P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON: Are We to Wait?

Pastor David R. Lyle
Matthew 11:2–11; James 5:7–10



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway

(green) **LBW #26**

(11:00) Stanza three will be sung by the choir.



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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: Prepare the Royal Highway

Michael D. Costello

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Ezekiel 37:26–27

Richard Hillert

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

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

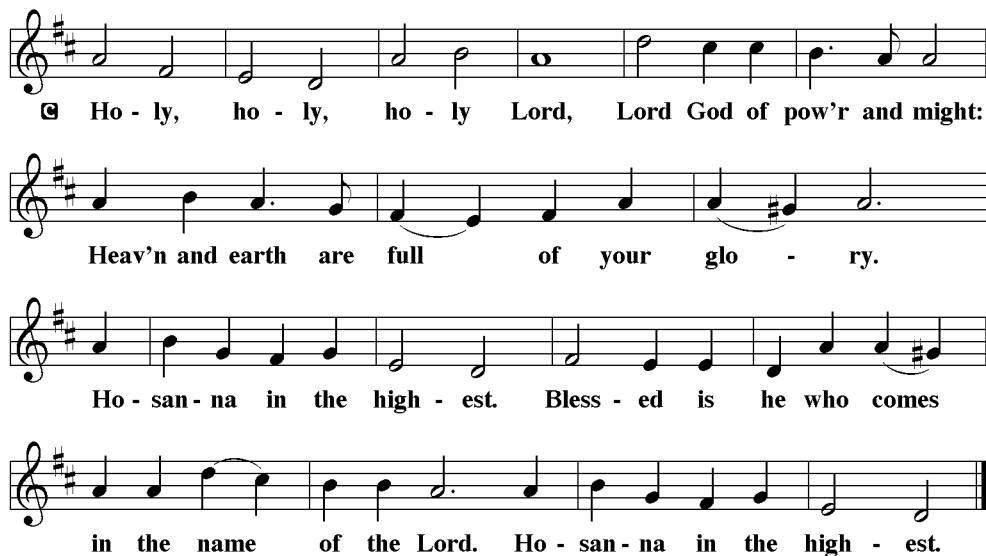
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- ¶ 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:



- ¶ 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.

C Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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



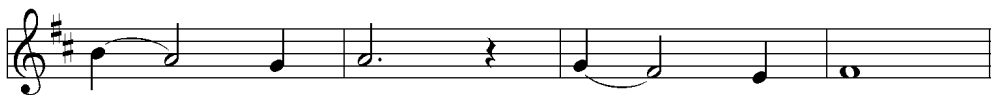
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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, 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.

We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the bread into the wine (intinction).

Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.

Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

(11:00) **ANTHEM:** E'en So Lord Jesus

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.

Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; sing Holy, Holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

Revelation 21:1-4; adapted by Ruth Manz



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.
 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
 Be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
 To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



to take a - way trans-gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.
 whose souls, con-demned and dy - ing, were pre-cious in his sight.
 and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

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 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.

C Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

☑ Amen.

SENDING HYMN: People, Look East

(blue) WOV #626



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

DISMISSAL

☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

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

Amy Claud
Mary Margaret Bartley, Gwen Gotsch
Nora Isenberg, Emily Jones
Julie Hinz, Julie Modrich
Paul Koester, John Sanger, Chuck Shea
Marilyn Moehlenkamp, Christina Starrick

Sabrina Maggio, Julie Modrich
Eunice Eifert, Andrew Costello

Deacon

Lectors

Crucifer/Bible Bearer

Gift Bearers

Ushers

Altar Guild

Choir

Greeters

Livestream audio/video

11:00

Al Swanson
David and Carrie Simpson
Katharina Sonksen, Matthew Huffman
Elizabeth Henderson, Linda Street
Gerlinde Van Driesen
Linda and Scott Street
Parish Choir
Julie and Peter Modrich

Copyright Acknowledgments

Portions of this liturgy reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright © 1978 by Augsburg Fortress, *With One Voice*, copyright © 1995 by Augsburg Fortress, and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright © 2006 by Augsburg Fortress. Graphics reprinted from *Sundaysandseasons.com*. All rights reserved. All of the above used by permission of Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #38423.

Readings come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymn of the Day, Anthem, Sending Hymn, and Postlude reprinted and/or livestreamed by permission of OneLicense.net license #A-704569.

LET US PRAY. . .

Betty Albain	Dan Cattau	Phyllis Kersten	Adrienne Rott
Annalise Balock	Hans Dumpys	Joan Koerber	Marnie Rourke
Cathy Barker	Louis Elia	Karen Lemke	Pat Scala
Carolyn Becker	Susan Franzone	Karen McMahon	Jim Scherer
Len Berghaus	Hena Gantepalli	Dave Moeller	Jill Sunderman
Anna Beyersdorf	Erica Charles Garcia	Mary Paulson	Jane Thompson
Miriam Bretscher	Belen Gresens	Paul Phillips	
MaryBeth Buschman	Patricia Herendeen	Bill Pullin	
Dick Calhoun	Genevieve Jones	Rob Ransom	

Pat B. (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	Maxx Kuser (<i>friend of Deb Maxwell</i>)
Fran Benson (<i>sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Eunice Larsen (<i>mother of Rebecca Dahlstrom</i>)
Collene Berghaus (<i>daughter-in-law of Len and Judy Berghaus</i>)	Kozene Lofton (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)
Karen Berglund (<i>friend of Carol Stanger</i>)	John Lunde (<i>friend of Susan Messerli</i>)
Emmet Bindon (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)	Esther Martz (<i>friend of Susie Calhoun</i>)
Jim Brandt (<i>friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner</i>)	Pam Mattox (<i>friend of many at Grace</i>)
Irene Buchbinder (<i>mother of Paul Buchbinder</i>)	Stacy Maugans (<i>friend of Johanna Johnson</i>)
Mike Calhoun (<i>brother of Dick Calhoun</i>)	Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (<i>cousins of Tom and Deb Maxwell</i>)
Brendan Cameron (<i>friend of Scott and Linda Street</i>)	Betty McClerren (<i>aunt of Stephanie Wilkening</i>)
Tim Chow (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)	Dwight Nelson (<i>father of Annalise Nelson Balock</i>)
Louis Comadina (<i>friend of Karen Eckstein</i>)	Carol Niendorf (<i>friend of Bill and Barbara Urbrock</i>)
Stella Dillberg (<i>mother of Gretchen Weaver</i>)	Louis and Gloria Nuechterlein (<i>brother and sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Clara Dorsey (<i>mother of Jo-Ellyn Dorsey</i>)	Elaine Pierce (<i>friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i>)
David Eastman (<i>brother of Pat Anderson</i>)	James Powers (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
Patti and Neal Enslin (<i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Susan Prather (<i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i>)
Nancy Epp (<i>sister of Pat Anderson</i>)	Mark Redheffer (<i>son of Virginia Walker</i>)
Randy Ernst (<i>friend of Valerie Spiller</i>)	John Riley (<i>father of Karin Danganan</i>)
Rikka Estenson (<i>mother of Erika Lyle</i>)	Larry Schneekloth (<i>friend of Bob Burke</i>)
Greta Ford (<i>granddaughter of Bruce and Jackie Modahl</i>)	Nancy Stelling (<i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i>)
Benjamin Galiher (<i>nephew of Paul May</i>)	Lee Stephens (<i>brother of Tony</i>)
Chandramma Gantepalli (<i>mother of Hena Gantepalli</i>)	Russ Tellio (<i>friend of Susan and David Franzone</i>)
Luke Gawencka (<i>friend of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Bill Urbrock (<i>friend of Grace Church</i>)
Mike Guss (<i>friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening</i>)	Mary Lou Wagoner (<i>sister-in-law of Stan Reddel</i>)
Jerry Haase (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke</i>)	Verna Walsh (<i>aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz</i>)
Beth Grams Haxby (<i>niece of Evelyn Grams</i>)	Bob Weaver (<i>husband of Gretchen</i>)
Harry Heppner (<i>brother of Ken Heppner</i>)	Bill Werner (<i>friend of Richard Martens and Grace School alum</i>)
Mary Herbick (<i>friend of Eileen and Joe Maggio</i>)	Ellen Williams (<i>daughter of Greg and Cindy Rohlfing</i>)
Julia Hickey (<i>daughter of Susan Hickey</i>)	Jordan Williams (<i>son-in-law of Greg and Cindy Rohlfing</i>)
Susan Hickey (<i>former member of Grace</i>)	Nancy & Dick Woodka (<i>friends of Susan & David Franzone</i>)
Margaret Hofmaier (<i>mother of Barbara Hofmaier</i>)	Randi Woodworth (<i>sister of Tammy Bretscher</i>)
Owen Huffman (<i>son of Eileen and Shawn Huffman</i>)	Don and Arleeta Yeske (<i>friends of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Judy Johnson (<i>Grace School alum</i>)	Veronica Zuirowski (<i>mother of Tom Zuirowski</i>)
Arnold Krubsack (<i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	
Kathryn Krubsack (<i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i>)	

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran Disaster Response

In thanksgiving for

Carl Gruendler, who celebrates his 93rd birthday today

For those who mourn

Annie Mackey (*mother of Paul Eichwedel's friend, Latonya Mackey*)

Sharon Arnst (*sister of LaDonna Hoffman*)

Maddie Janzow (*niece of Christine and Paul Phillips*)

Those serving in the armed services

Jacob Benson (*great-nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)

Reid Beveridge (*son-in-law of the Schnacks*)

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

E. Michael Garcia Goetting (*son of Mary Goetting*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Matthew Grosz (*nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

Zachery Grosz (*great-nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

John Kibler (*son of April Kibler*)

Joshua Nelson (*son-in-law of Ted and Maja Anton*)

Miles Powell (*nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

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*)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (*friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher*)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (*Germany*)

Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Tim Sandvoss

Christopher Davis

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

Electronic giving

Your financial gifts support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School.

On Venmo Search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @gracriverforest.

By text Text a dollar amount to 833-471-1346. If you're a first-time text giver, you'll receive a link with instructions about how to complete your donation.

Online donation Go to GraceRiverForest.org and look for Donate on the home page menu. Or use the QR code.



MARY

We Lutherans tend to downplay the role of Mary in the Christian story for fear she may overshadow the person and work of Christ. But how could there be a person named Jesus without a mother? Mary is too significant an agent in God's story of redemption to be confined to the role of a pregnant teenager in a Christmas pageant. In the New Testament we see her at the wedding at Cana, at the foot of the cross, and at the empty tomb Easter morning. We are reminded of Mary when we recite the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and in services of Evening Prayer when we sing Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55; pages 147-48 of the green hymnal).

To appreciate Mary's song it is crucial to know the context out of which it arose. The Magnificat came to Luke from a circle of Jewish Christians who were poor and humble, people we might today call "the marginalized." They knew they could not trust in their own strength but had to rely in utter confidence upon God. Luke portrays Mary as the first disciple by making her a spokeswoman for this community. When Mary speaks of God as her Savior, she associates salvation with the birth of Jesus Messiah. That was the faith by which her community lived.

The Magnificat has three parts: an introduction praising God (v. 46-47); the body of the hymn in two stanzas; and the conclusion (v. 54-55). In the introduction Mary reminds us of how she had found favor with God not because she was worthy but because God was gracious to her. Hence her joy in the Lord.

In the first stanza (v. 48-50), the attributes of God that are cited — God is the Mighty One, holy and merciful — were those most admired by the community of the poor who were dependent upon him. Because she was "of low estate" and a "servant" Mary is associated with the poor ones whom God has helped by his power, whether they are women yearning for children or Israel reduced to low estate by oppression. Mary was the first to know that the child to be born would be called holy (Luke 1:35).

In the second stanza, (v. 51-53), Mary's song becomes explicitly communal with historical roots. It may take considerable imagination to think that the embryo in Mary's womb has already put down the mighty from their thrones; she is actually expressing the hope of her community. Poverty and hunger here are primarily spiritual, nevertheless poverty was a reality among Jerusalem Christians in the post-Easter church. But this is not a call to class warfare. It is a reminder that wealth and power have no standing in God's sight.

The conclusion of Mary's song (v. 54-55) is like a coda. That God has helped his "servant Israel" echoes Mary's rejoicing in the opening verses. Since the "helping" has begun with the conception of the Messiah, Mary can proclaim that this promise has been fulfilled and God's covenant of mercy reaches beyond Israel to all people.

As the Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt has written, genuine newness, not a new fashion or a new model of something already existing, but radical newness comes into the world only with a new birth. "Of the Father's love begotten..."

Pastor + Hans Dumpys

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY, DECEMBER 11

Library Open (self-service, coffee) 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Worship – Holy Communion.....8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Adult Education (Seminar Room) 9:45 a.m.
Children’s Chr. Eve Rehearsal (Ext. Care Rm.).....9:45 a.m.
(Public School Children)
Sunday School (3rd Floor Commons)..... 9:45 a.m.
Confirmation (School Library) 9:45 a.m.
Teen Talk (Youth Center) 9:45 a.m.
Advent/Christmas Concert (Sanctuary)..... 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Stephen Ministry Dinner (Fellowship Hall)6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Retired Leaders (Church Library) 10:00 a.m.
Elementary Education Committee (1902 Rm.) 7:00 p.m.
Property Committee (Church Library)..... 7:00 p.m.
Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Commons) 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

School Chapel – Morning Prayer8:25 a.m.
Cornerstones (Church Library) 9:30 a.m.
Advent Morning Prayer..... 11:00 a.m.
Cornerstones Lunch (Fellowship Hall)..... 11:30 a.m.
Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall)..... 6:00 p.m.
Advent Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

GriefShare (Church Library).....9:00 a.m.
Adult Handbell Choir (Bell Room) 6:30 p.m.
The Chosen Watch Party (Conf Rm.)..... 7:00 p.m.
Women’s Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 7:30 p.m.
Justice and Peace Committee (1902 Room)..... 7:30 p.m.
Music of the Baroque Concert (Sanctuary) 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Religion in Literature 8:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Children’s Chr. Eve Rehearsal (Seminar Rm.) 3:00 p.m.
(Public School Children)
Chicago Choral Artists Concert (Sanctuary) 7:30 p.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) _____

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
LUTHERAN
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
William Koehne, Principal
Joanna Schubkegel, Parish Nurse
Brendha Klaus, Communications Coordinator
Julie Modrich, Children’s Ministry Coordinator
Julie Hinz, Discipleship and Fellowship Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
David Pfeiffer, Facilities Manager
José Meza, Technology Manager