



Welcome to

Grace Lutheran Church and School

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



Visitors

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Read more about worship on the
inside cover of this worship folder.

Fill out the form on the back cover
to tell us more about you.

Worship at Grace

The service is printed in this worship folder.

Hymns are ordinarily in the
green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW)
and blue *With One Voice* (WOV) hymnals.

Information is printed on the next page
about additional resources for worship.

Learn More

Today's insert contains announcements
about ministries of Grace Church and School.

Learn more about Grace by visiting us
online at www.graceriverforest.org.

The Holy Communion

The First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Grace

Welcome 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.

Children's Resources

Activity bags, worship bulletins, and booster seats are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery Care

The nursery is open and staffed 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.

Holy Communion

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the bread and wine of Communion, 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.

Assistance in Worship

For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated. 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.

Electronic Devices

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

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.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers may be sponsored by members wishing to celebrate a special occasion or honor the memory of a loved one. Please stop by the front desk for more information.

As We Gather

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.



✝ GATHERING ✝

PRELUDE: What Child Is This

Timothy Albrecht

We stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: What Child is This

(green) LBW #40



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

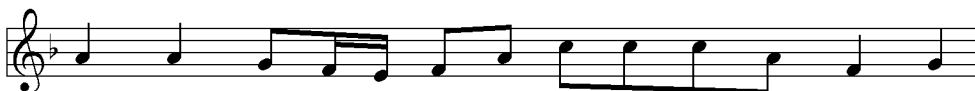
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ 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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 61:10–62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

ANTIPHON: The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven

Carl Schalk

- L** Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise God | in the heights.
- C** **Praise the LORD, | all you angels,***
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
- L** Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;*
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- C** **Praise the LORD, heav-| en of heavens,***
and you waters a- bove the heavens.
- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
who commanded, and they | were created,
- C** **who made them stand fast forev-| er and ever,***
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
- L** Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- C** **fire and hail, | snow and fog,***
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
- L** mountains, | and all hills,*
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- C** **wild beasts | and all cattle,***
creeping things and | flying birds;
- L** sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- C** **young | men and maidens,***
old and | young together.
- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- C** **The LORD has raised up strength for the people**
and praise for all | faithful servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L The Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Colossians 3:15, 16

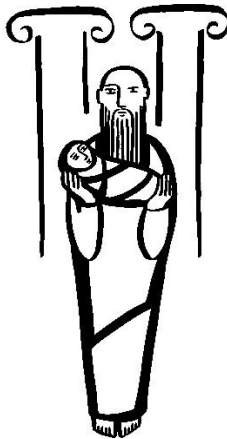
John Ferguson

We join in singing:



Choir Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. *Alleluia.*

G **REFRAIN**



HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor David R. Lyle
Luke 2:22–40

HYMN OF THE DAY: In His Temple Now Behold Him

ELW #417



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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,
G **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.
G **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
G **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: In His Temple Now Behold Him

Edwin C. Johnson

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: John 1:1, 14

Robert Wetzler

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth;
and we have beheld his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
G **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 The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- 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:



C 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 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.

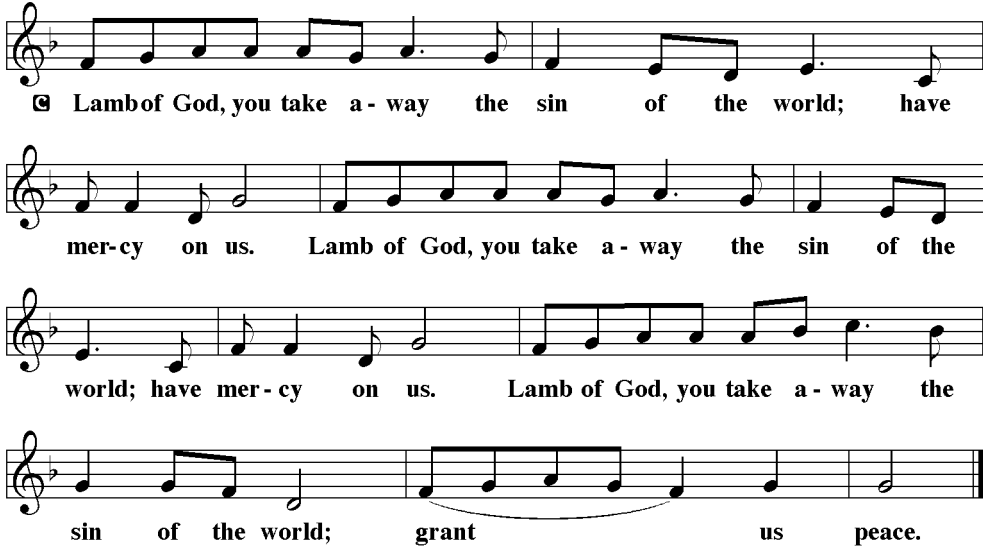
P The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

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

ANTHEM: Simeon's Song

Kenneth T. Kosche

Lord, now let your servant go in peace;
 your word has been fulfilled.
 My own eyes have seen your salvation
 which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
 A light to reveal you to the nations
 and the glory of your people Israel.
 Glory be to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Based on Luke 2:29–32

HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(green) **LBW #198**



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way; as the Light of light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
 in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, comes, the pow'rs of hell to
 as with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



scend - ing comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

A Amen.

A Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those
whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

A Amen.

SENDING HYMN: Let All Together Praise Our God

(green) **LBW #47**



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his glo - rious
2 The Fa - ther sends him from his throne to be an in - fant
3 With - in an earth-born form he hides his all - cre - at - ing
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our hu - man



throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain to
small and lie here poor - ly man - gered now in
light; to serve us all he hum - bly cloaks the
frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



give us his own Son, to give us his own Son.
this cold, dis - mal stall, in this cold, dis - mal stall.
splen - dor of his might, the splen - dor of his might.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

Stanzas 5–7 are printed on the next page.

5 He is a servant, I a lord;
how great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christchild's love!
No truer friend than he,
no truer friend than he.

6 He is the key, and he the door
to blessed paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
to God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore,
and praise to God the Father yield
and Spirit evermore;
we praise you evermore.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Let All Together Praise Our God

Michael D. Costello

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Rebecca Dahlstrom, assisting minister

Lori Martin, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir, choir

Mary Margaret Bartley, Al Swanson, lectors

Keith and Jessica Bullock, gift bearers

Richard Calhoun, Dan and Julie Lehmann, Susan Weber, ushers

Catherine Amato, Donna Serpico, altar guild

Susie Calhoun, Ruth Reko, greeter

Liz Hanson, livestream audio/video

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LET US PRAY...

Cathy Barker	Louis Elia	Kathy Hale	Dave Moeller
Miriam Bretscher	Tom Ewert	Marlene Hallman	Rob Ransom
MaryBeth Buschmann	Carol Forrest	Patricia Herendeen	Ron Rott
Larry Caponigri	David Franzone	Genevieve Jones	Marge Sanger
Dan Cattau	Susan Franzone	Phyllis Kersten	Pat Scala
Stewart Clarke	Hena Gantepalli	Joan Koerber	Gick Schmidt
Yvonne Daniels	Galen Gockel	Tom Maxwell	Linda Webb
Hans Dumpys	Susan Hammon	Karen McMahan	

Joe Anderson (<i>nephew of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i>)	Fred Klawiter (<i>friend of Carolyn and Larry Garber</i>)
Marcia Anderson (<i>sister-in-law of David and Gay Anderson</i>)	Arnold Krubsack (<i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i>)
Mike Arvis (<i>uncle of Grace student Luke Murphy</i>)	Kathryn Krubsack (<i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i>)
Pat B. (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	Marcia Kruse (<i>mother-in-law of Carl Wahlstrom</i>)
Fran Benson (<i>sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Alice Lindberg (<i>sister of Carol Prinz</i>)
Karen Berglund (<i>friend of Carol Stanger</i>)	Kozene Lofton (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)
Khadija Boudim (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	John Lunde (<i>friend of Susan Messerli</i>)
Irene Buchbinder (<i>mother of Paul Buchbinder</i>)	Anita Lyle (<i>mother of Dave Lyle</i>)
Jess Cosby (<i>nephew of Marilyn and Ken Heppner</i>)	Esther Martz (<i>friend of Susie Calhoun</i>)
Shawn Dahlstrand (<i>friend of many at Grace</i>)	Pam Mattox (<i>former member of Grace</i>)
Sharese Damiri (<i>sister of Lori Martin</i>)	Betty McClerren (<i>aunt of Stephanie Wilkening</i>)
Nancy Demas (<i>sister of Thomas Demas and Mary Demas</i>)	Charles Miller (<i>friend of Ruth Reko</i>)
Charles Dietz (<i>friend of Carol and Bill Ewald</i>)	Sharon Mitchell (<i>friend of Jennifer Staples</i>)
Stella Dillberg (<i>mother of Gretchen Weaver</i>)	Dwight and Betty Nelson (<i>parents of Annalise Nelson Balock</i>)
Donna Dokken (<i>relative of Dave Lyle</i>)	John Noris (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
David Eastman (<i>brother of Pat Anderson</i>)	Louis Nuechterlein (<i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Patti and Neal Enslin (<i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Louis and Gloria Nuechterlein (<i>relatives of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Nancy Epp (<i>sister of Pat Anderson</i>)	Paul Nuechterlein (<i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Randy Ernst (<i>friend of Valerie Spiller</i>)	Ryan O'Neil (<i>friend of the Johnson family</i>)
Dianne Fink (<i>sister-in-law of Olinda Fink</i>)	Sharon Peridis (<i>friend of Marilyn Heppner</i>)
Benjamin Galiher (<i>nephew of Paul May</i>)	Elaine Pierce (<i>friend of Al and Irmgard Swanson</i>)
Chandramma Gantepalli (<i>mother of Hena Gantepalli</i>)	James Powers (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
Rose Geiseman (<i>wife of Jack Geiseman, daughter-in-law of Otto Geiseman</i>)	Susan Prather (<i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i>)
Jerry Haase (<i>friend of Mary Margaret Bartley and Stewart Clarke</i>)	Judy Redheffer (<i>daughter of Virginia Walker</i>)
Harry Heppner (<i>brother of Ken Heppner</i>)	John Riley (<i>father of Karin Danganan</i>)
Cheryl Hintze (<i>aunt of Dave Lyle</i>)	Joel Somers (<i>friend of Susan Scherer</i>)
Herbert Hofmaier (<i>father of Barbara Hofmaier</i>)	Leah Stanger (<i>daughter-in-law of Carol and John Stanger</i>)
Ruth M. Hughes (<i>mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey</i>)	Nancy Stelling (<i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i>)
Rina Jacobius (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)	Jill Sunderman (<i>mother of Elyssa Salinas Lazarski</i>)
Judy Johnson (<i>Grace School alum</i>)	Russ Tellio (<i>friend of Susan and David Franzone</i>)
Maureen Jordan (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)	Mary Lou Wagoner (<i>sister-in-law of Stan Reddel</i>)
Scott Kibler (<i>relative of April Kibler, father of John, Dan, and Olivia Kibler</i>)	Bob Weaver (<i>husband of Gretchen</i>)
Gayle Killey (<i>uncle of Julie Modrich</i>)	Amy Wischhusen (<i>relative of Ann Mason</i>)
	Randi Woodworth (<i>sister of Tammy Bretscher</i>)
	Don and Arleeta Yeske (<i>friends of Eunice Spurgat</i>)

Benevolence ministries

Valparaiso University

For those who mourn

Jim Scherer

Scott Berghaus (*nephew of Judy Berghaus, cousin of Debbie Conley*)

Those serving in the armed services

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

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

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 (*grandson 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 studying abroad

Lila Shea (*England*)

Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Tim Sandvoss

Christopher Davis

Kathleen Wrobel

Joan Koerber

Those who need encouragement

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

Prayer requests can be made through the church office. Contact Esther Armstrong (earmstrong@gracriverforest.org) to be included in the weekly prayers. For more private prayer concerns, please contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) to be added to the confidential prayer chain.

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.



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY, DECEMBER 31

Library Open (self service) 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Worship – Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.
New Year’s Eve Worship – Holy Communion..... 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year’s Day Worship – Holy Communion..... 10:00 a.m.
Building closed after worship

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

Cornerstones Fellowship & Bible Study..... 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

Moms of Littles (Youth Center) 6:30 p.m.
Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 p.m.
Social Ministry (Conference Room)..... 7:30 p.m.
Women’s Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, January 6

Visitation for Bill Brown (Atrium) 10:00 a.m.
Funeral Service and Interment for Bill Brown..... 11:00 a.m.
Reception following funeral (Fellowship Hall) 12:15 p.m.
Epiphany Worship – Holy Communion..... 7:00 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

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River Forest, Illinois 60305
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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 Adams, 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