



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

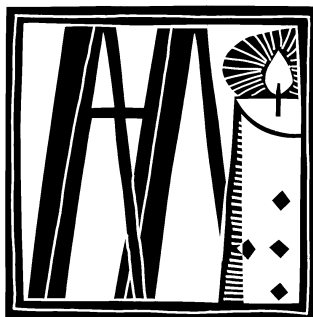
Learn more about Grace by visiting us
online at www.graceriverforest.org.

The Holy Communion

The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 6, 2024

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

Assistance in Worship For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you.

Sound enhancement units and large print bulletins are available in the back of the church and from the ushers.'

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

Holy Communion In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ is host.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Partita on “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”

Jan Bender

ENTRANCE HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come!

(blue) WOV #652

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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



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



B 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.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives,
and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✝ WORD ✝

We sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

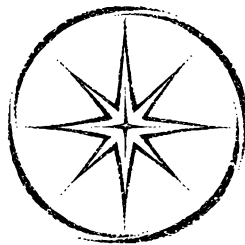
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 10-14

- Ⓛ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,*
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ⓐ **that he may rule your | people righteously*
and the | poor with justice;**
- Ⓛ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,*
and the little | hills bring righteousness.
- ⓐ **He shall defend the needy a- | mong the people;*
he shall rescue the poor and crush | the oppressor.**
- Ⓛ He shall live as long as the sun and | moon endure,*
from one generation | to another.
- ⓐ **He shall come down like rain upon | the mown field,*
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- Ⓛ In his time shall the | righteous flourish,*
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ⓐ **The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,*
and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.**
- Ⓛ All kings shall bow | down before him,*
and all the nations | do him service.
- ⓐ **For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,*
and the oppressed who | has no helper.**
- Ⓛ He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor,*
he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- ⓐ **He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,*
and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.**



SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Matthew 2:2

Robert Wetzler

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1–12

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

℣ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

SERMON: A Mystery Made Known

Pastor David R. Lyle

Matthew 2:1–12

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

(green) **LBW #76**



C 1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's
W 2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in
C 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls
M 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when



own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.
not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas -
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch -
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him



ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!
es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!
here and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in
 Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and dis -
 Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! for you
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life for -



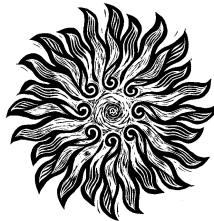
bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
 teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
 ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is he, the King of glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

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: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Dieterich Buxtehude

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Isaiah 60:1, 6

Robert Wetzler

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

- P** Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might. 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 preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance 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 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.**

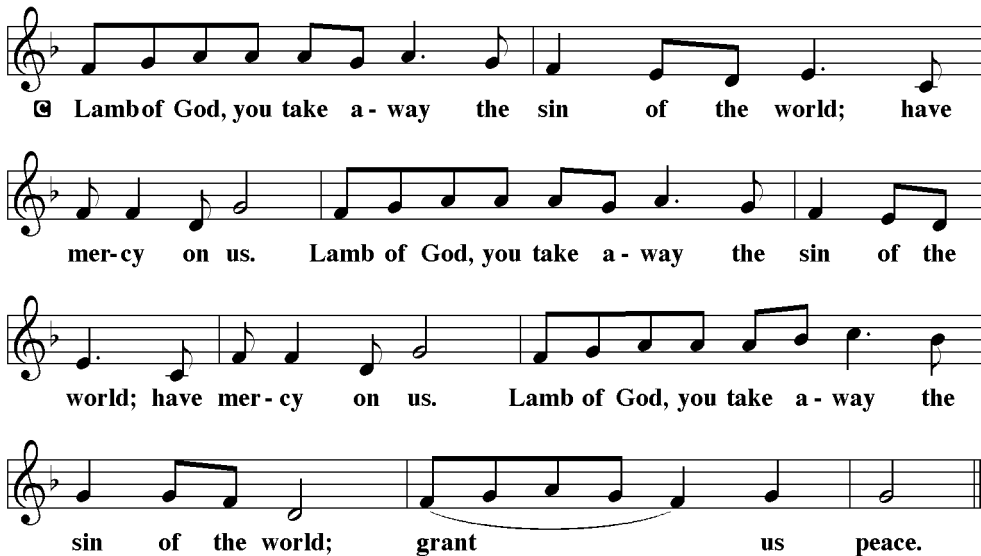
P The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread or wafer, and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the host 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.*

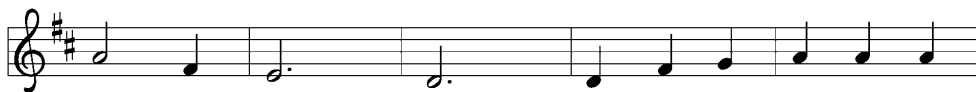
MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

(green) **WOV #649**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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: O God of Light

(green) LBW #237



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.

Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: O God of Light

Michael D. Costello

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Christine Nelson, assisting minister

Susie Calhoun, deacon

Julie Modrich and Mary Beth Logas, lectors

Donna Serpico and Paula Stephens, gift bearers

Catherine Amato and Donna Serpico, altar guild

Thomas Ewert, usher

Al Swanson, livestream audio/video

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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**

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

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
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