



Holy Communion

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

10:45 p.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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

Assistance in Worship For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you.
Sound enhancement units and large print bulletins are available in the back of the church and from the ushers.

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

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

Bulletin Cover The bulletin cover art is by Athena Schultz,
a student at Grace Lutheran School.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis

Michael D. Costello

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is his name;
and his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy
as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Luke 1:46–55

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Nunc dimittis

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the 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.

Luke 2:29–32

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Sussex Carol

Setting by Sir David Willcocks

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring –
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should Christians be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin he set us free,
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels above with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God we sing again
Now and for evermore. Amen.”

English Traditional Carol, alt.

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly king?
Awake the voice! Awake the string! *Refrain*

Refrain

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine, and his showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away!
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
If we may ask the reason, say: *Refrain*

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome him. The nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart. *Refrain*

Which we shall give him; and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath
To do him honour, who's our King
And Lord of all this revelling. *Refrain*

Robert Herrick

We stand and face the processional cross as we sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Stanzas 3 and 4 Settings by David Willcocks



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



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



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



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



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

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

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

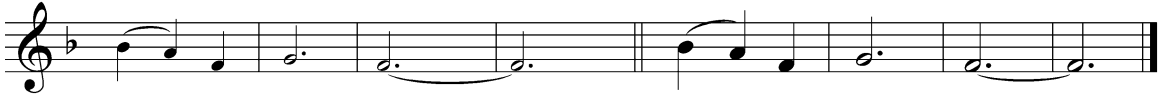
KYRIE



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



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



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

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest

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



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

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

C REFRAIN

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

C REFRAIN

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

C REFRAIN

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

We sit.

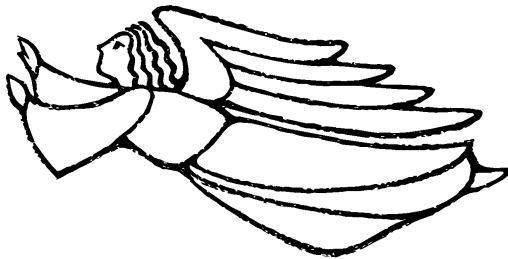
✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

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

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



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

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

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Setting by David Willcocks



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

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

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

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

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

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

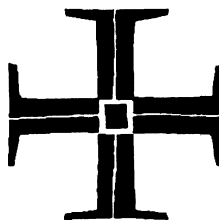
G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

We sit.

SERMON

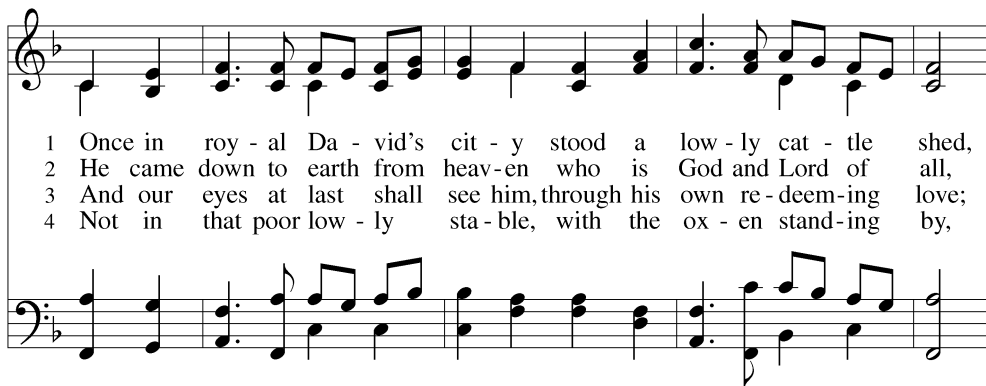
Pastor David R. Lyle



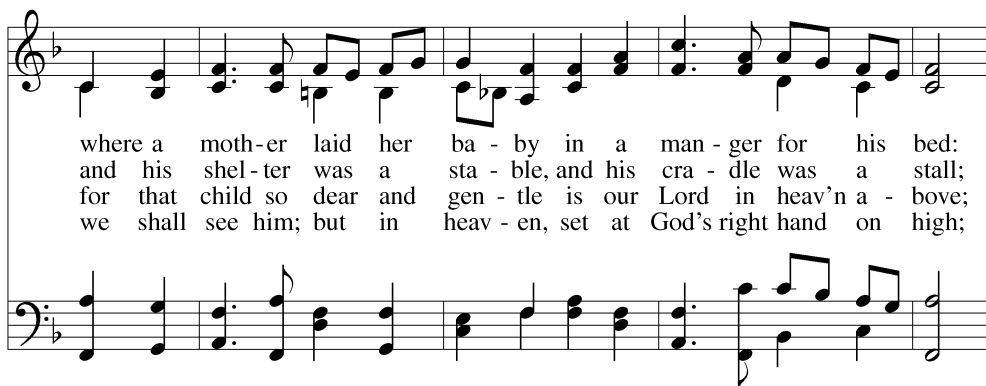
HYMN OF THE DAY: Once in Royal David's City

Setting by David Willcocks

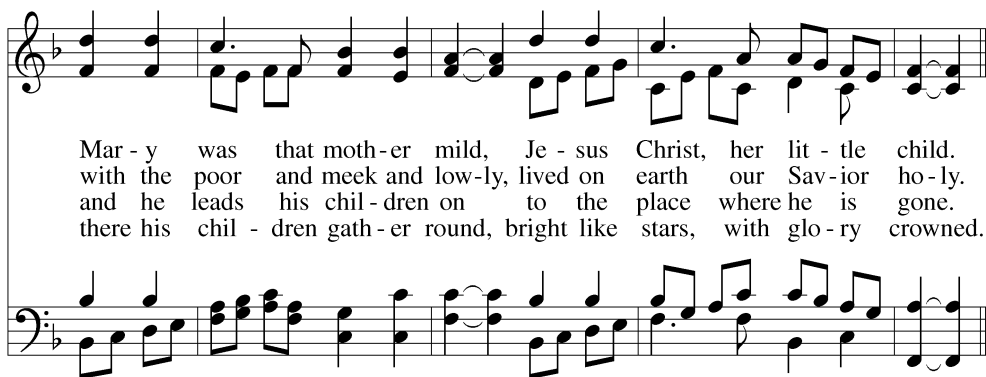
Stanza one is sung by a soloist; we stand and join in singing stanzas two through four.



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



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



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

NICENE CREED

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

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

C Amen.

✝ MEAL ✝

PEACE OF CHRIST

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: Away in a Manger

Michael D. Costello

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

Visit GraceRiverForest.org to give online.

We stand and sing as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY: The People Who Walked in Darkness

Richard Hillert

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



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

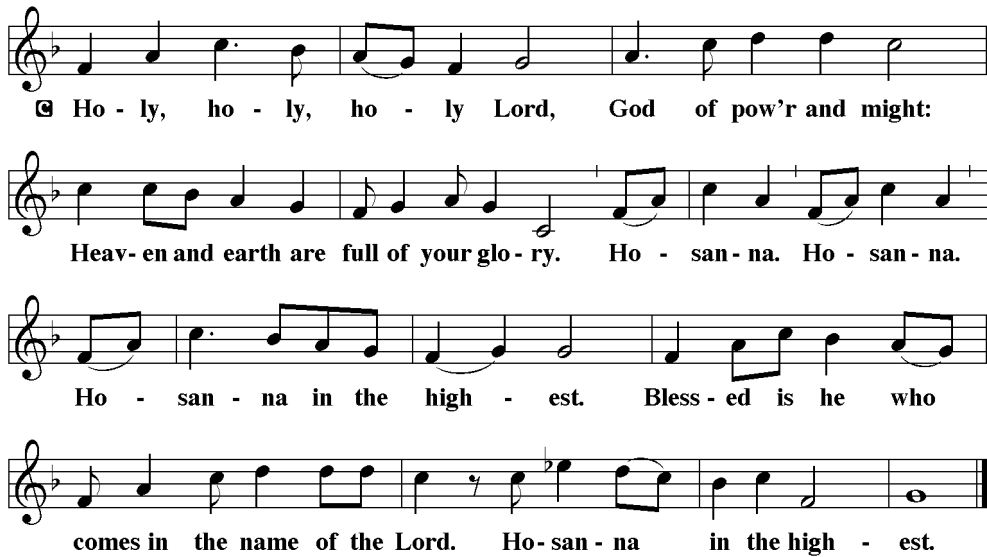


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



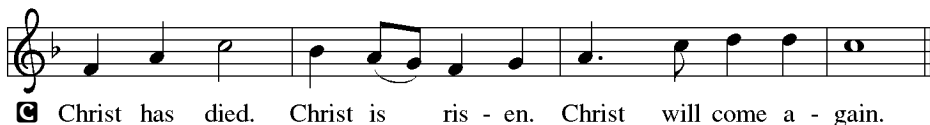
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- 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:



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 risen. Christ will come again.

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

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



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

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

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI



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



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



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

COMMUNION

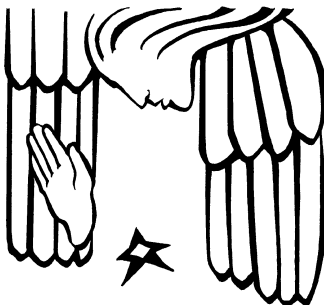
Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

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.



The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood,
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in his way.

Thomas Troeger, b. 1945

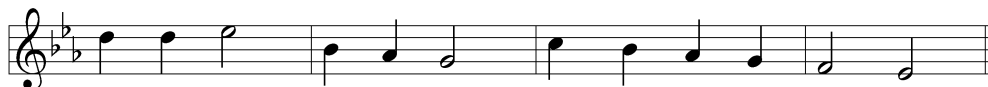
HYMN: Once Again My Heart Rejoices



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es as I hear, far and near,
2 Hark! A voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, does en - treat,
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and small,



sweet - est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born" their choirs are sing - ing,
"Flee from woe and dan - ger; come and see; from all that grieves you
kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is yearn - ing;



till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.

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

HYMN: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

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

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

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959

Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863

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We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

C Amen.

A Let us pray.

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

C Amen.

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

CANDLELIGHTING/ANTHEM: Before the Marvel of This Night

Carl F. Schalk

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

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

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

Jaroslav J. Vajda

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

☑ Amen.



SENDING HYMN: Silent Night

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



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



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



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



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

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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

POSTLUDE: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Matthew Machemer

LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Deborah Maxwell, assisting minister

Katie Maxwell, lector

Julie Modrich and Susan Scherer, gift bearers

Roberta Gillespie and Jane Andrew, altar guild

Mike Gillespie and Eliza Grahnke, ushers

Grace Parish Choir

Meg Lanfear, violin I

Billie Howard, violin II

Bridget Andes, viola

Jean Hatmaker, cello

Christine Janzow Phillips, oboe

Ngaire Whiteside-Bull and Katrina Beck, soprano soloists

Al Swanson, livestream audio/video

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT GRACE

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

New Year's Eve, December 31

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion

The Name of Jesus, January 1

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

The Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred), January 5

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

POINSETTIAS

Chancel poinsettias are sponsored by the following individuals:

The Armstrong family, in memory of Kay Armstrong and Ron Schuette
Larry and Carolyn Garber

Karen Jackson, in memory of John and Carolyn Wally

The Koch family, in honor of Richard, June and Martha Huff

The Kocheny family, in memory of their parents

The Lyle family, in memory of Anita Lyle

The Modrich family, in memory of Julie Hinz and Mike Berg

The Muraiti family and Dianne Laux, in loving memory of Ruth H. Laux (Oma)

Hildegarde Schmidt, in memory of Stephen Schmidt

The Schnittker family, in memory of Len Berghaus

Josh and Joanna Schubkegel

Al and Irmgard Swanson, in memory of Al and Gertrude Swanson and David and Henrietta Krubsack

Beverly White

Lance and Stephanie Wilkening

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.

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CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

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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
Taylor-Imani Gates, Principal
Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Amanda Smith, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
David Pfeiffer, Facilities Manager
José Meza, Technology Manager