



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

First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

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

Flowers may be sponsored to celebrate a special occasion or to honor the memory of a loved one. Please stop at the front desk for details.

As We Gather

Luke is the only Evangelist to give us a window into the childhood of Jesus. Having made the journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem for Passover, the Holy Family is now returning home. Well, most of them are. Jesus, however, remains behind. While he is amazing the teachers, his parents are frantic with anxious agony. For three days they search for him. This is not, of course, the last time Jesus will go missing for three days at Passover. Jesus' question here is echoed by the question asked of the women at the tomb: Why are you searching for the living among the dead? On this Fifth Day of Christmas, we are reminded where to find Jesus. The risen Christ, who is now our Temple, is the One who gives himself to us today in bread and wine. Today, we continue to marvel at the mystery and majesty of the Incarnation. God has come close to us, and we will never go missing again.



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Still, Still, Still

Setting by Paul Manz

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.

P 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.

C Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

(green) **LBW #44**



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

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.

G 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.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God,
and open our minds to the knowledge of your word,
that in all things we may think and act according to your good will
and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

We sit.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

L The Word of the Lord

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

ANTIPHON: The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.

John Folkening

L Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.

**G Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;*
praise him, | all his host.**

L Praise him, | sun and moon;*
praise him, all you | shining stars.

**G Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,*
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.
- G** **He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;***
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.
- L** Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- G** **fire and hail, | snow and fog,***
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;
- L** mountains | and all hills,*
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- G** **wild beasts | and all cattle,***
creeping things and | winged birds;
- L** kings of the earth | and all peoples,*
princes and all rulers of the world;
- G** **young | men and maidens,***
old and | young together.
- L** Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- G** **He has raised up strength for his people**
and praise for all his | loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12–17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Colossians 3:15–16

John Ferguson

Choir Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

REFRAIN (*below*)



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

REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:41–52

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

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

Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Holding On to Christ(mas)

Pastor David R. Lyle
Luke 2:41–52

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Holy Child Within the Manger

(blue) **WOV #638**

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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: Where Shepherds Lately Kneled

Setting by David Sims

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

☞ Let us pray. Merciful Father,

☞ **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.

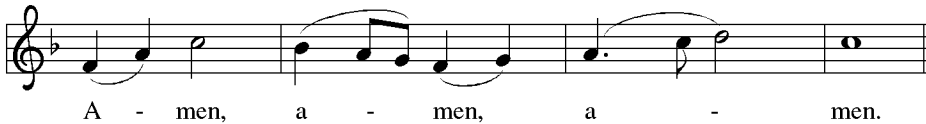
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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.



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.

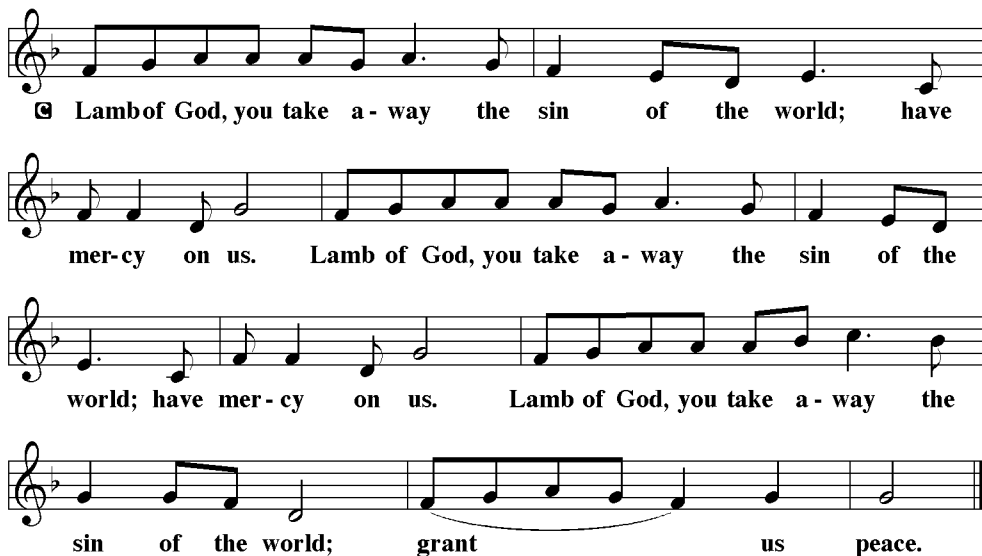
P The gifts of God for the people of God.

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: Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Carl F. Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt
And kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief,
A pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room
And welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place
I find him as they said:
Sweet, newborn Babe, how frail,
And in a manger bed:
A still small voice
To cry one day for me.

How should I not have known
Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart, I stare:
A Child, a Son,
The Prince of Peace—for me.

Can I, will I forget how
Love was born and burned
Its way into my heart:
Unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live,
And not alone for me.

Jaroslav J. Vajda

HYMN: What Feast of Love

(blue) **WOV #701**



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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HYMN: Cold December Flies Away

(green) LBW #53



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

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

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

C Amen.



SENDING HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(green) LBW #55



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *In dulci jubilo*

Norman Dello Joio

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Deborah Maxwell, assisting minister

Lori Martin, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir, choir

Eileen Maggio, Al Swanson, lectors

Faith Greig, Annelise Walsh, crucifer/Book bearer

Roberta Gillespie, Susan Weber, gift bearers

Mike Gillespie, Mary Rasmusson, Stephanie Wilkening, ushers

Donna Serpico, Liz Hanson, altar guild

Susan Bogner, Ann Mason, Ruth Reko, greeters

George Hogenson, Anne Claud, livestream audio/video

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LET US PRAY...

Cathy Barker	Karen Eckstein	Jim McClanahan	Rhea Sprecher
Jill Baumgaertner	Louis Elia	Carol Prinz	Rich Stasack
Ann Bresnen	Susan Franzone	Rob Ransom	Irmgard Swanson
Miriam Bretscher	Hena Gantepalli	Ron Rott	Gerlinde VanDriesen
MaryBeth Buschmann	Susan Hammon	Marge Sanger	Linda Webb
Marilyn Busse	Kathy Hale	Linda Schwab	Lance Wilkening
Meg Busse	Patricia Herendeen	Frank Senn	
Dan Cattau	Phyllis Kersten	Michael Sicuro	
Yvonne Daniels	John Lattyak	Beth Smoots	

Coletta and Ty Ali (<i>friends of Pat Anderson</i>)	Tim Jackson (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)
Ken Arvis (<i>relative of Karen Murphy</i>)	Judy Johnson (<i>Grace School alum</i>)
David Benson (<i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Kennedy Johnson (<i>Grace alum, son of Jackie Johnson</i>)
Fran Benson (<i>sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Maureen Jordan (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
Jack Berg (<i>friend of Art Gustafson</i>)	Garrett Klein (<i>friend of Janet Sylvester</i>)
Karen Berglund (<i>friend of Carol Stanger</i>)	Arnold Krubsack (<i>brother of Irmgard Swanson</i>)
Brad Bishop (<i>brother-in-law of Julie Modrich</i>)	Kathryn Krubsack (<i>niece of Irmgard Swanson</i>)
Cynthia Booth (<i>cousin of Ellen Pullin</i>)	Diane Larsen (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
Khadija Boudim (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	John Lunde (<i>friend of Susan Messerli</i>)
Twanda Burk (<i>friend of Paul Eichwedel</i>)	Cordy and Mike MacDonald (<i>friends of Jen Murtoff</i>)
Paul Cordes (<i>son of Bruce Cordes</i>)	George, Latonya and Thomas Mackey (<i>friends of Paul Eichwedel</i>)
James Crawford (<i>nephew of Eunice Spurgat</i>)	Martin Marty (<i>friend of Dean and Beverly Lueking</i>)
Laurel Marie D. (<i>neighbor of Pat Anderson</i>)	Pam Mattox (<i>former member of Grace</i>)
Joe Dahlstrom (<i>brother-in-law of Rebecca Dahlstrom</i>)	Carol Metzler (<i>friend of Sandy Lentz</i>)
Joseph De Vries (<i>father of Jayson De Vries</i>)	Mary Moehlenkamp (<i>sister-in-law of Marilyn Moehlenkamp</i>)
Ethan Douglas (<i>friend of Pat Anderson</i>)	Tom Moeller (<i>brother of Sharon Kluge</i>)
Patrick Edwards (<i>friend of Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim</i>)	Monika Nash (<i>daughter of Verna Offermann</i>)
Patti and Neal Enslin (<i>friends of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Dwight and Betty Nelson (<i>parents of Annalise Nelson Balock</i>)
Randy Ernst (<i>friend of Valerie Spiller</i>)	Louis and Gloria Nuechterlein (<i>relatives of Eunice Spurgat</i>)
Melissa Estenson (<i>sister-in-law of Erika and Dave Lyle</i>)	James Powers (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
John Falzone (<i>friend of Karen Eckstein</i>)	Susan Prather (<i>cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott</i>)
William Fields (<i>friend of Karen Eckstein</i>)	Mara Schmidt (<i>friend of Dan and Christa Krout</i>)
Debbie Frederick (<i>friend of Bob and Margaret Burke</i>)	John Slover (<i>friend of Al Swanson</i>)
Julia Friend (<i>friend of Susan Franzone</i>)	Nancy Stelling (<i>friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten</i>)
Nancy Gier (<i>friend of Susan and David Franzone</i>)	Chris and Sue Swanson (<i>cousins of Al Swanson</i>)
Carrie Grams (<i>cousin of Sandy Grams</i>)	Jennifer Sylvester (<i>daughter of Janet Sylvester</i>)
Steven Grupe (<i>friend of Susan Messerli</i>)	Eleanor Teglia (<i>granddaughter Art Gustafson</i>)
Elizabeth Hammon (<i>daughter-in-law of Susan Hammon</i>)	Gaylord Thomas (<i>friend of Ruth and Karl Reko</i>)
Sara Heiserman (<i>relative of Carol Prinz</i>)	Mary Lou Wagoner (<i>sister-in-law of Stan Reddel</i>)
Harry Heppner (<i>brother-in-law of Marilyn Heppner</i>)	Tara Zinger (<i>friend of Jennifer Staples</i>)
Don Hinz (<i>friend of Sandy Grams</i>)	
Ruth M. Hughes (<i>mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey</i>)	

Benevolence ministries

Lutheran World Relief

In thanksgiving for

The 94th birthday of **Susan Messerli**

The 98th birthday of **Walter Pelz** (*cousin of Evelyn Grams*)

For those who mourn

Dave Yoder (*friend of Dave and Erika Lyle*)

Those serving in the armed services

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*)

Zachary Larsen (*grandson of Karen and Richard McMahon*)

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*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

Those studying abroad

Isabella Staples (*The Netherlands*)

Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Dave Moeller

Christopher Davis

Tim Sandvoss

David Franzone

Pat Scala

Joan Koerber

Kathleen Wrobel

Karen McMahon

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@graceriverforest.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 @graceriverforest.

By text Text a dollar amount to 833-471-1346. If you're a first-time 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.



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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Fax: (708) 366-0966
www.graceriverforest.org
gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

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

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY, DECEMBER 29
Worship – Holy Communion **10:00 a.m.**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30
Building open 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
Building open for worship only
New Year’s Eve Worship – Holy Communion **7:00 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
New Year’s Day Worship – Holy Communion **10:00 a.m.**
Building closed following worship

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2
Building open 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3
Building open 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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