



The Holy Communion

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

10:00 a.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 Esmé Davis, a student at Grace Lutheran School.

# ✠ GATHERING ✠


**PRELUDE:** Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held


*We stand and face the cross in procession.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Of the Father's Love Begotten


(green) **LBW #42**




1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



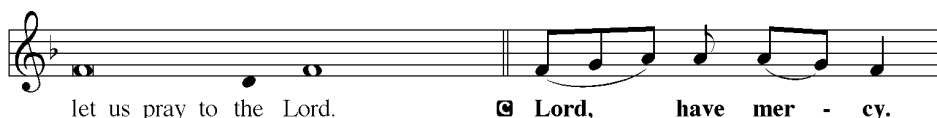
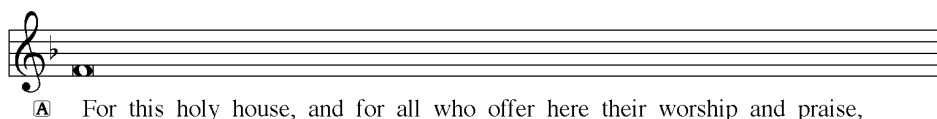
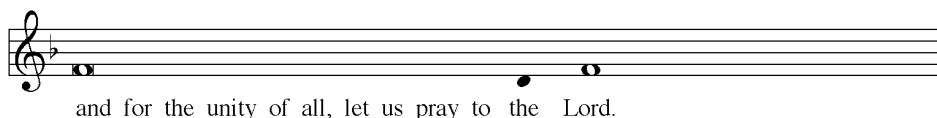
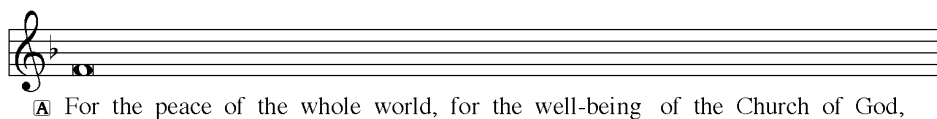
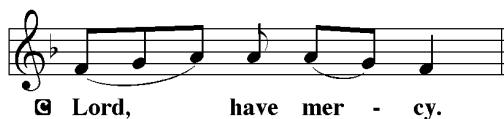
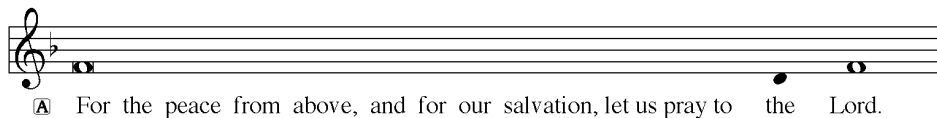
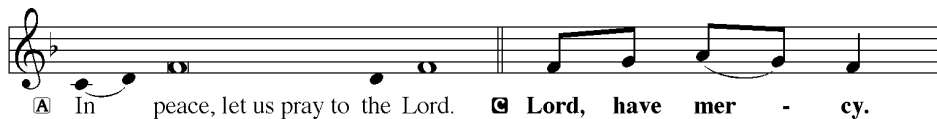
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## 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



## HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people 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  
and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature.  
In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ  
who came to share our humanity,  
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*We sit.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they  
see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of  
Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD  
has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall  
see the salvation of our God.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 98

Antiphon by Michael D. Costello

ANTIPHON: All of the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**L** Sing to the Lord | a new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things.

**C** With his right hand and his | holy arm\*  
has he won for him- | self the victory.

**L** The Lord has made | known his victory,\*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.

**C** He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,\*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

- L** Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;\*  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
- C** **Sing to the LORD | with the harp,\***  
**with the harp and the | voice of song.**
- L** With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\*  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- C** **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,\***  
**the lands and those who | dwell therein.**
- L** Let the rivers | clap their hands,\*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to |  
judge the earth.
- C** **In righteousness shall he | judge the world\***  
**and the peo- | ples with equity.**

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.


When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." <sup>10</sup>And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; <sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and face the cross in procession as we sing stanza one of the Sequence Hymn.*

# SEQUENCE HYMN: Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, and ush - er in the morn - ing;  
2 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to thee, Lord Je - sus Christ, be gi - ven;



ye shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, but hear the an - gel's warn - ing.  
thou hast our broth - er deigned to be, our foes in sun - der riv - en.



This child, now weak in in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be,  
Oh, grant us through our day of grace with con - stant praise to seek thy face;



the pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.  
grant us ere long in glo - ry with prais - es to a - dore thee.



## **HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

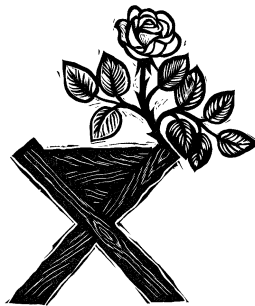
**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We face the cross in procession as we sing stanza two of the Sequence Hymn.*

*We sit.*

**HOMILY**

Pastor David R. Lyle  
John 1:1–14



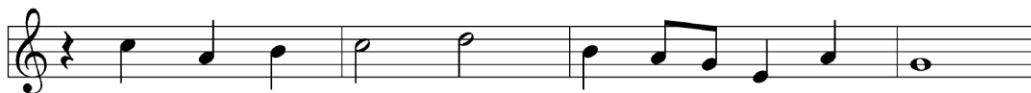
*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Peace Came to Earth**

(blue) **WOV #641**



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



when an - gels clove the sky with song and light  
the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,  
How else could I have loved you, O my God!



and God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—  
the wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—  
in bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—  
How else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but see Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Music: SCHNEIDER, Paul Manz, 1919–2009

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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

**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/ANTHEM:** Word Made Flesh to Dwell Among Us

Carl F. Schalk

Word made flesh to dwell among us,  
Grace and truth in human form;  
Barn made palace for a monarch,  
Swaddling clothes to keep him warm;  
Hay made bed to hold a Savior,  
Manger-cradled, heaven-born.

Dark made light for frightened shepherds,  
Hearing of the wondrous birth;  
Pledge made true, the angel tells them:  
Promised Child of priceless worth;  
Sky made song by angel chorus:  
“Praise to God and peace on earth!”

Strength made weak to know our nature,  
Son made Lamb to banish fears;  
Life made new by Love incarnate,  
Hope made real in Infant tears;  
Star made guide to draw the nations;  
See, the promised Christ appears!

David Rogner

*We stand and sing as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE:** Psalm 98:4 and 2:7–8

Richard Hillert

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
The Lord said to me, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.”  
Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,  
and all the ends of the earth your possession.

## 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:



**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** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.**

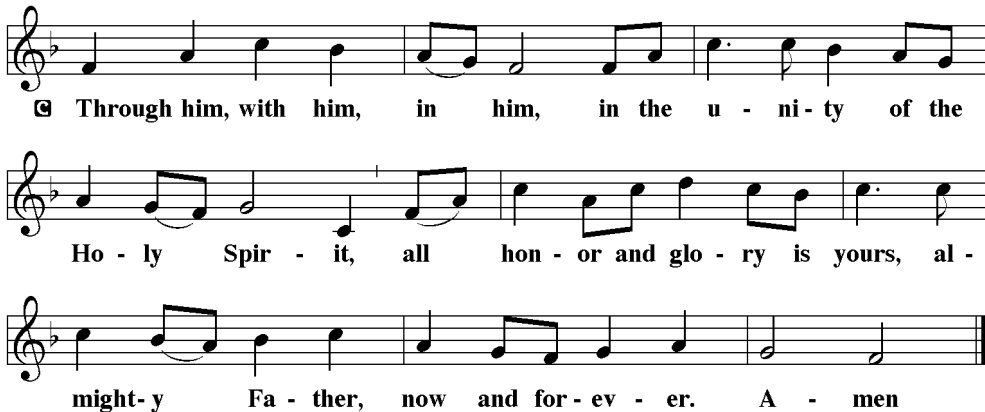
**P** Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood,  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P** Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



- 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:** The Holy Son of God

Setting by K. Lee Scott

The holy Son of God most high  
For love of Adam's fallen race,  
Left all the pleasures of the sky  
To bring us to that blessed place.

His robes of light he laid aside,  
Which did his majesty adorn,  
And the frail state of mortals tried,  
In human flesh and figure born.

Henry More, 1614–1687, *alt.*



HYMN: Where Shepherds Lately Kneled

ACS #909



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,  
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:  
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,  
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred.  
sweet new - born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed:  
his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:  
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me;  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me;  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me;  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me;



but there is room and wel - come there for me.  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
a child, a son, the Prince of peace for me.  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Music: MANGER SONG, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

(green) LBW #70

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

*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.**



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.

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.

**Choir** 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.

**C** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Let All Together Praise Our God

Kenneth T. Kosche

## LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Dan Lehmann, deacon

Deborah Maxwell, assisting minister

Collin Kuipers and Norah Lewis,  
crucifer/book bearer

Julie Modrich and Stacia Taylor, lectors

Paulette Reddel and Susan Scherer, gift bearers

Lis Hanson and Susan Scherer, altar guild

Julie Lehmann, Marcia Nolan

Scott Schwar, and Susan Weber, ushers

Susan Bogner, Mary Jane Keitel,  
and Paulette Reddel, greeters

Grace Parish Choir

Liz Hanson and Al Swanson,  
livestream audio/video

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT GRACE

**First Sunday of Christmas, December 28**

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 4**

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

## POINSETTIAS

**Chancel poinsettias are sponsored  
by the following individuals:**

Kay Bowers

Carolyn Garber

Robert Hale

Philip and Jennifer Spahn

Al Swanson, in memory of his parents

Irmgard Swanson, in memory of her parents

Paul and Cathy Schnittker, in memory of Peter Armstrong

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