



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 LBW and
blue 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 graceriverforest.org.

The Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025

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.

We Gather

Advent is a time of nostalgia, and that's not all bad. Many of us have many wonderful memories of this time of year. Something I looked forward to every year as a child was cutting down the family Christmas tree. No tree lots or plastic trees for us! While our family hasn't cut down our own Christmas tree in years, I still look back on those days fondly. Into the middle of my nostalgia comes John the Baptist. Clad in camel's hair, he's in no mood to romanticize the past. John has come to tell it like it is. He, too, speaks of cutting down trees. His ax, however, is not meant for Douglas firs. The ax is laid at our roots. We, and the structures and systems we have built, have failed to bear good fruit. The good news, however, is that God does good work with stumps. New life shoots forth from the stump of Jesse. Messiah comes toward us. Repent, John calls, imploring us to turn our lives back to God. When we do, we find that Jesus has been there the whole time. Forgiven, new growth abounds.



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Paul Manz and Gerald Near

We face the cross in procession.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Hark, the Glad Sound!

(green) **LBW #35**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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.**

KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1–10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1–7, 18–19

Michael D. Costello

ANTIPHON: In his time the righteous shall flourish.

℣ 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.

☞ **Blessed be the Lord GOD, the | God of Israel,*
who alone does | wondrous deeds!**

℣ And blessed be his glorious | name forever,*
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4–13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Luke 3:4, 6

John Helgen

L Alleluia, alleluia.

C **REFRAIN** (*below*)



L Prepare the way of the Lord.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C **REFRAIN**

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

We sit.

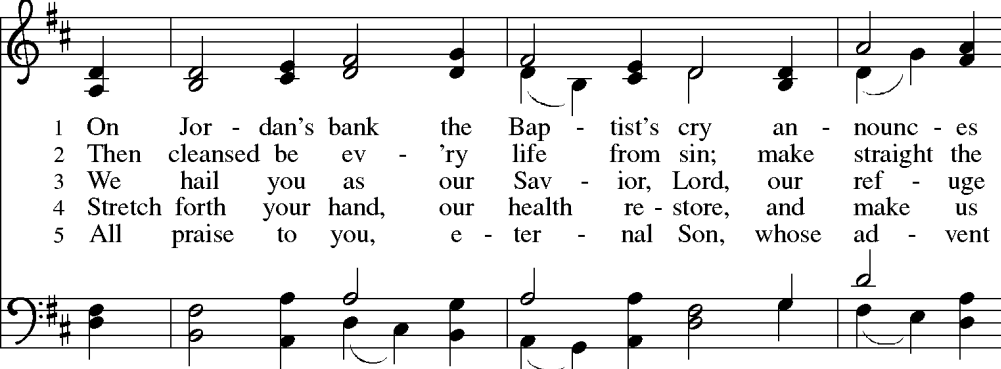
SERMON: The Ax Is at the Root

Pastor David R. Lyle
Matthew 3:1–12

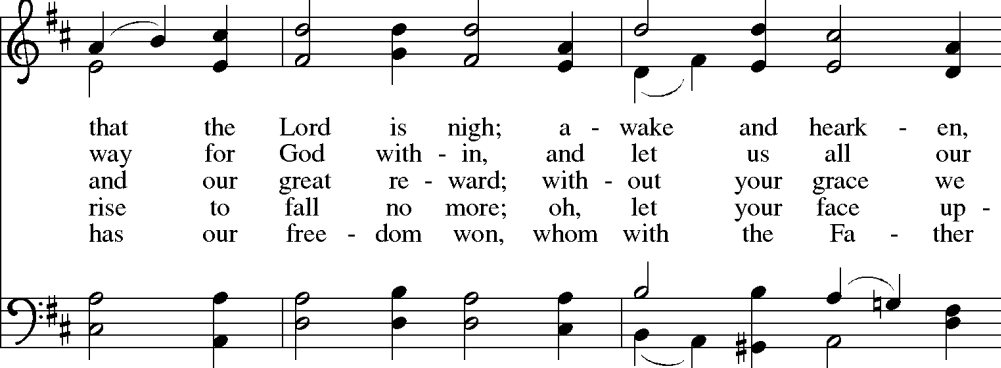
We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

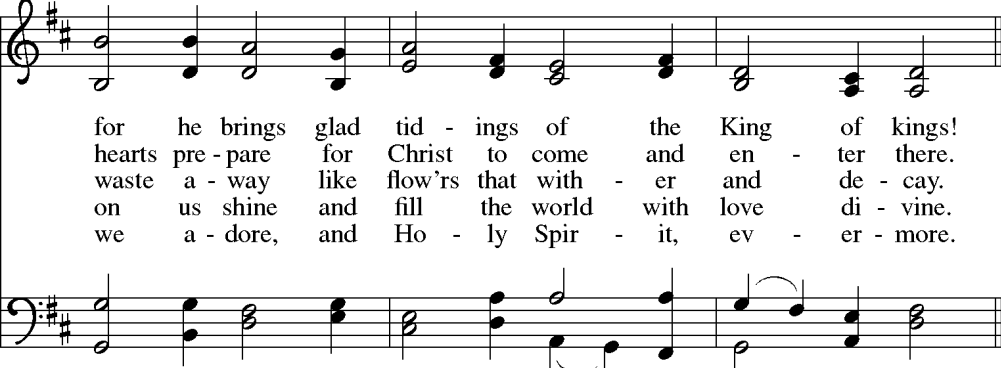
(green) **LBW #36**



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



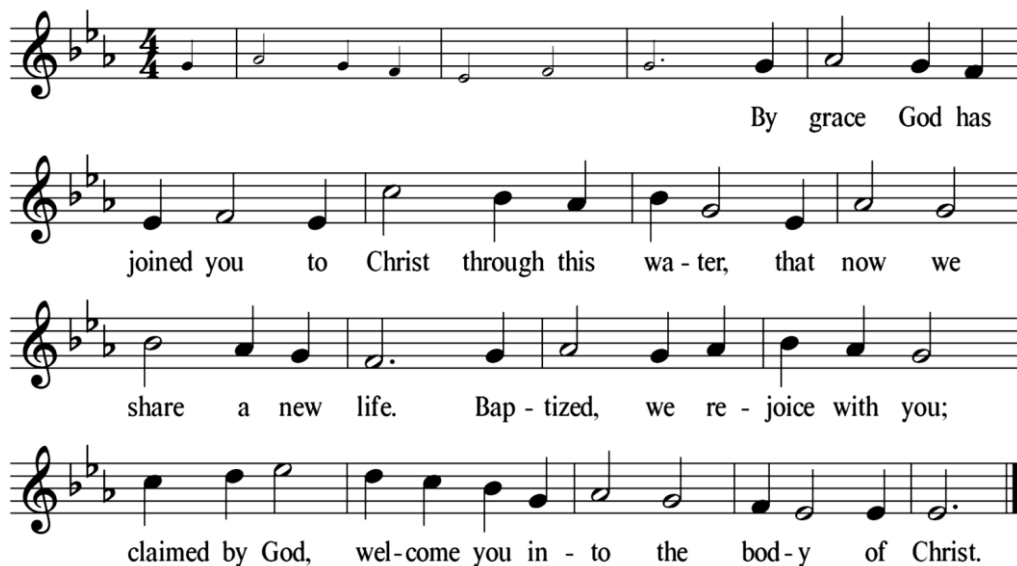
for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (page 121 *in the front* of the green *LBW*.)

Teresa Ann Race

After the spoken welcome, we sing the following response:



By grace God has
joined you to Christ through this wa - ter, that now we
share a new life. Bap - tized, we re - joice with you;
claimed by God, wel - come you in - to the bod - y of Christ.

We stand.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- A** Lord, in your mercy,
- G** hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

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

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Luke 13:29, 14:15

Richard Hillert

Many will come from east and west, and from north and south,
and sit at table in the kingdom of God.

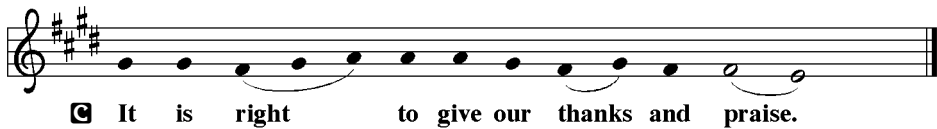
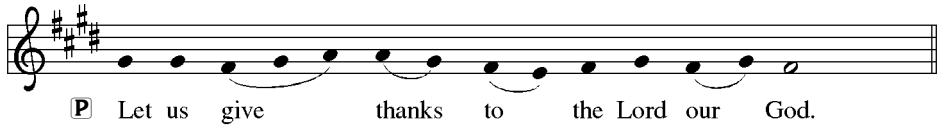
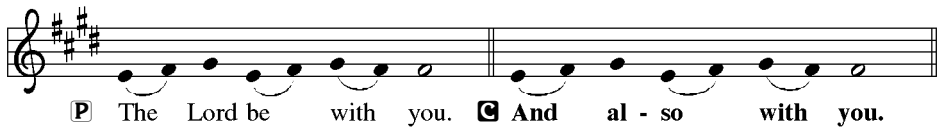
Blessed are they who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

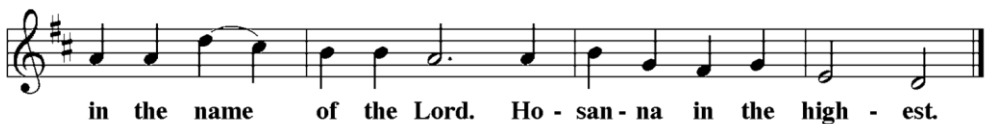
- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
G **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



GREAT THANKSGIVING



- P** 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, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☐ Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
You sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy 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.

☐ **Amen.**

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



C 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, 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.*

Anointing with oil for healing *is offered during the distribution of communion.
After receiving communion, come to the anointing station at the head of either side aisle
for prayer and anointing as a tangible sign of God's promise of wholeness for you.*

*Your need may be healing from physical illness, spiritual or emotional distress, grief, loss, or
anxiety, for yourself or a family member.*

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

ANTHEM: Advent Hymn

Martin Jean

Oh, come, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and loose the chains of guilt and fear.
Our souls are bound by sin so great and yearn your drawing near.
We look for hope. We pray for peace of mind and troubled heart.
Salvation comes from you alone, and we deserving not.

Through ancient prophets God revealed the promise of salvation near.
From heaven's throne our Lord bent down, his love our gift so dear.
We look for hope. We pray for peace of mind and troubled heart.
Salvation comes from you alone, and we deserving not.

Come with me now to see the throne, the manger where our Savior lies.
Kneel down in awe before his crib and kiss the feet of God.
Our hope is here. The peace he brings will draw us to that place,
Where we shall sing in perfect praise and dwell in endless day.

Martin Jean

HYMN: All Earth Is Hopeful

(blue) WOV #629



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor

- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
- 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
- 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
- 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co - a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

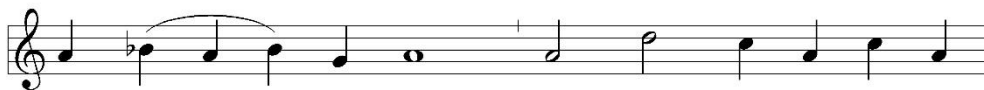
Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

HYMN: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

(green) **LBW #37**



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near,"
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, let the earth -
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par -
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the Fa -



we hear the cry. "Cast a - way the works of
 bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all sloth dis -
 don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of
 is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his
 ther and the Son with the ev - er - liv - ing



dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day!"
 pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
 Music: FREUEN WIR UNS ALL IN EIN, Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

G Amen.

A Let us pray.

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

G Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

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

☞ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

(green) **LBW #29**



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king-dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Alfred V. Fedak

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister

Liz Hanson, assisting minister

Lori Martin, deacon

Grace Parish Choir, choir

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Kathryn Jandeska, Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson, lectors

Annelise Walsh, McKenna Dyer, crucifer/Book bearer

Julie Modrich, Al Swanson, gift bearers

Linda Bernard and Diana Sicuro, anointers

Richard Calhoun, Thomas Ewert, Eliza Grahne, Lance Wilkening, Stephanie Wilkening, ushers

Linda Street, Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson, altar guild

Susan Bogner, Ruth Reko, Beth Reynolds, greeters

Kat Starrick, Michael Starrick, livestream audio/video

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LET US PRAY...

Joe Anderson
Jill Baumgaertner

Ann Bresnen
Aron Bresnen
Miriam Bretscher
MaryBeth Buschmann
Larry Caponigri
Dan Cattau

Yvonne Daniels
Louis Elia
Susan Franzone
Susan Hammon
Bob Hale
Catherine Hegarty
Phyllis Kersten
Karen Kress

Mary Beth Logas
Mark Lucht
Joe Modrich
Katarina Modrich
Chris Morgan
Mike Rollheiser
Steve Roskam
Ron Rott

Marge Sanger
Gick Schmidt
Linda Schwab
Bonnie Shaner
Rhea Sprecher
Madison Staples
Virginia Walker
Linda Webb

Coletta and Ty Ali (*friends of Pat Anderson*)
Mary Baker (*friend of Karen Eckstein*)
Bill Batte (*friends of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)
Fran Benson (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)
Jack Berg (*friend of Art Gustafson*)
Karen Berglund (*friend of Carol Stanger*)
Stan Birnbaum (*friend of Sandy and David Lentz*)
Khadija Boudim (*friend of Pat Anderson*)
Russ Bradley (*son-in-law of Robert and Bonnie Shaner*)
Lois Cornils (*friend of many at Grace*)
James Crawford (*nephew of Eunice Spurgat*)
Laurel Marie D. (*neighbor of Pat Anderson*)
David De Jong (*brother-in-law of Mary Beth Logas*)
Patti Enslin (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)
Randy Ernst (*friend of Valerie Spiller*)
Carolyn Eysol (*mother of Jade Augustine*)
Julia Friend (*friend of Susan Franzone*)
Dan Gaspar (*brother of Susan Hickey*)
Barbara Gehring (*mother of Stephanie Wilkening*)
Linda Allen Gotsch (*friend of Roberta Gillespie*)
Peter H. (*friend of Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim*)
Erma Jean Haas (*grandmother of Hannah Langhoff*)
Elizabeth Hammon (*daughter-in-law of Susan Hammon*)
Joe Hammon (*husband of Susan Hammon*)
Tim Haylett (*relative of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)
Sara Heiserman (*relative of Carol Prinz*)
Charlene Helmer (*sister of Carol Stanger*)
Harry Heppner (*brother-in-law of Marilyn Heppner*)
Jose Hernandez (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)
Ruth M. Hughes (*mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey*)
Maureen Jordan (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Paula Kersten (*niece of Phyllis Kersten*)
Garrett Klein (*friend of Janet Sylvester*)
Lenard Kling (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)
Elizabeth Kottle (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)
Arnold Krubsack (*brother of Irmgard Swanson*)

Kathryn Krubsack (*niece of Irmgard Swanson*)
Diane Larsen (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Bill Lowry (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)
Sarah Marohl (*friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner and Art Gustafson*)
Lauren Marshall (*friend of Carol Ewald*)
Drake Martinez (*student of Deb Maxwell*)
John McGinness (*cousin of Cathy Schnittker*)
Connie Melvin (*cousin of Stephanie Wilkening*)
Linda Muraski (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)
Monika Nash (*daughter of Verna Offermann*)
Dwight and Betty Nelson (*parents of Annalise Nelson Balock*)
Karen Nelson (*niece of Eunice Spurgat*)
Carolyn Newberg (*sister of Kathryn Jandeska*)
Bill Nicholas (*friend of many at Grace*)
Gloria Nuechterlein (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)
Martin Ottomanelli (*friend of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)
James Powers (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Susan Prather (*cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott*)
Diane Raschal (*cousin of Jennifer Staples*)
Leona Riley (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)
Sue Sommerfeld (*relative of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)
Stacy and Mark (*friends of Case and Pat Hoogendoorn*)
Nancy Stelling (*friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten*)
Randy Stueve (*friend of Lance Wilkening*)
Jennifer Sylvester (*daughter of Janet Sylvester*)
Eleanor Teglia (*granddaughter Art Gustafson*)
Chris Thannum (*cousin of Chrissy Nelson*)
Gaylord Thomas (*friend of Ruth and Karl Reko*)
Al Toepfer (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)
Mary Lou Wagoner (*sister-in-law of Stan Reddel*)
Bob Weaver (*husband of Gretchen Weaver*)
Linda West (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)
Dave Wick (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)
Michael Wilson (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)
Tara Zinger (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)

Benevolence ministries

RefugeeOne

In thanksgiving for

The baptism of Teresa Ann Race *(daughter of Elisabeth and Nathan Race, granddaughter of Douglas and Ann Anderson, great-granddaughter of Pastor F. Dean and Beverly Lueking)*

For those who mourn

Elaine Kruse *(sister of Roberta Gillespie and Margaret Kruse)*

Those serving in the armed services

Kevin Buss *(nephew of Christa Krout)*

Josh Espinosa *(cousin of Jenny Luebbe)*

Matthew Garmatz *(grandson of Margaret Garmatz)*

Zachery Grosz *(great-nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner)*

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

Hannah Schubkegel *(Sweden)*

Isabella Staples *(The Netherlands)*

Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Bruce Cordes

Christopher Davis

David Franzone

Patricia Herendeen

Joan Koerber

Karen McMahon

Susan Messerli

Dave Moeller

Carol Prinz

Tim Sandvoss

Kathleen Wrobel

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 text giver, you'll receive a link with instructions about how to complete your donation.

Online donation Go to GraceRiverForest.org and look for Donate on the home page menu.

Or use the QR code.



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY, DECEMBER 7

Library Open (self-service).....	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School, PK-SK (Nursery).....	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School, Grades 1-6 (3 rd Floor Commons).....	9:00 a.m.
Confirmation, Grades 7-8 (Youth Center).....	9:00 a.m.
Adult Education (Seminar Room).....	9:00 a.m.
Worship – Holy Communion	10:00 a.m.
Mentor Sunday (Youth Center).....	11:15 a.m.
Spirito Concert (Sanctuary)	4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Stephen Ministry (Church Library)	6:30 p.m.
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Faith Forum (Church Library).....	10:00 a.m.
Elementary Ed Committee (1902 Room)	7:00 p.m.
Health Committee (Church Library).....	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

School Chapel – Morning Prayer (Sanctuary).....	8:25 a.m.
Cornerstones Bible Study (Church Library)	10:00 a.m.
Advent Worship – Morning Prayer (Sanctuary)	11:30 a.m.
Cornerstones Lunch (Fellowship Hall).....	12:00 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Room)	5:30 p.m.
Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 p.m.
Advent Worship – Evening Prayer (Sanctuary).....	7:00 p.m.
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room).....	7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Grief Share (Church Library).....	10:00 a.m.
Yoga (Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m.
Board of Discipleship (Conference Room)	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Finding Hope (Church Library).....	10:00 a.m.
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

High School Youth Service Project (Offsite)	8:15 a.m.
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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. If you prefer a digital form, you can scan the QR code instead.



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.
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
Phone: (708) 366-6900
Fax: (708) 366-0966
www.graceriverforest.org
gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

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

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