



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](http://graceriverforest.org).

### The Holy Communion

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 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.

## **Altar Flowers**

Today's flowers are sponsored by Marcia and Pat Nolan in memory of Evelyn and Pete Haase and the Lewis family, and by Joe and Julie Modrich in celebration of their 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

## **We Gather**

For the second Sunday in a row, we hear of John the Baptist. The bold preacher to whom the crowds were flocking has been imprisoned. His message of repentance was well received, until it wasn't. In the end, the world didn't really want to change its ways. His message, preparing the way for the Christ, was too offensive. The gospel of Jesus, centered in faith, hope, and love, is offensive. It stands in stark contrast to our ways of self-interest, violence, and hate. Jesus, like John before him, will pay for this gospel with his life. It is here, at what looks like the end, that new life begins. A new Kingdom comes. Prison doors shall fall away and we shall all walk forth in the freedom of new life.



## ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** Prepare the Royal Highway

Michael D. Costello

*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.**

*We face the cross in procession.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Prepare the Royal Highway

*(green)* **LBW #26**

*Stanza three is sung by the choir.*



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
**Choir** 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**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.

# 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.



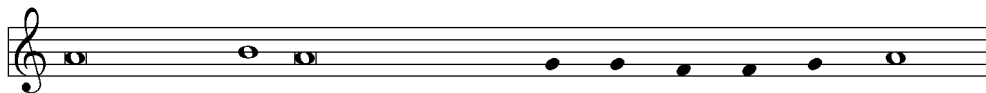
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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.

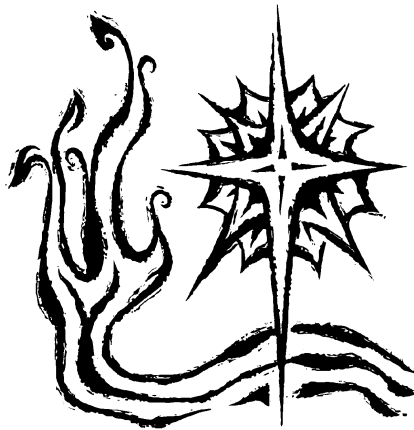
**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God,  
and strengthen our faith in your coming,  
that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;  
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 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: The Lord gives justice to those who are oppressed.

- L Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,\*  
 whose hope is in the | Lord their God;
- C **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;\***  
**who keeps his prom- | ise forever;**
- L who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,\*  
 and food to | those who hunger.
- C **The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind;\***  
**the Lord lifts up those who | are bowed down;**
- L the Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares | for the stranger;\*,  
 he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.
- C **The Lord shall | reign forever,\***  
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING:** James 5:7–10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

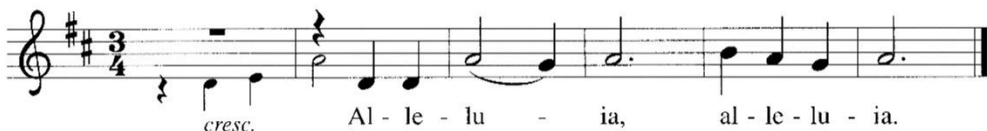
*We stand.*

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Matthew 11:10

John Ferguson

L Alleluia, alleluia.

C **REFRAIN** (*below*)



L I am sending my messenger before you,  
 who will prepare your way before you.

C **REFRAIN**

## HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2–11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

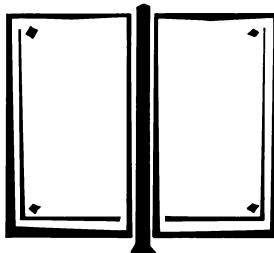
**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**SERMON:** On the Offensive

Pastor David R. Lyle  
Matthew 11:2–11

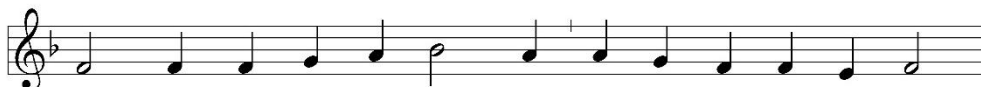


*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*(green)* **LBW #87**

*Stanza three is sung by the choir.*



- 1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
**Choir** 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth.  
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,  
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
Be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend;



to take a - way trans-gres - sion and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

## NICENE CREED

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

☒ **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.**

*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.*

**OFFERING/VOLUNTARY:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Robert J. Powell

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE:** Ezekiel 37:26–27

Richard Hillert

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them.

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people.

### **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** 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, 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:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

☐ 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.*

## MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

### **ANTHEM:** Stir Up Thy Power, O Lord

James Biery

Stir up thy power, O Lord,  
and with great might come among us, O Lord,  
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Traditional Collect for Advent



# HYMN: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(green) LBW #30



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## HYMN: He Comes to Us as One Unknown

(blue) **WOV #768**



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -  
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -  
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and  
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and  
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark-ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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*We stand.*

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

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

**C Amen.**

**A** Let us pray.

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.

**C Amen.**

# ✠ SENDING ✠

## BENEDICTION

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

☒ Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: People, Look East

(blue) WOV #626



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** Prepare the Royal Highway

Paul Manz

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

Elyssa Salinas Lazarski, assisting minister

Rich Schubkegel, deacon

Grace Parish Choir, choir

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Sandy Lentz, Eileen Maggio, lectors

Penny Dunavan, Jack Williams, crucifer/Book bearer

Tom Thomas, Jr., Leanne Cribbs, gift bearers

Paul Koester, Joe Maggio, Marcia Nola, Scott Schwar, Gerlinde VanDriesen, ushers

Liz Hanson, Donna Serpico, altar guild

Susie Calhoun, Mary Jane Keitel, Ruth Reko, greeters

Tom Swanson, George Hogenson, livestream audio/video

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## LET US PRAY...

Jill Baumgaertner  
Ann Bresnen  
Miriam Bretscher  
MaryBeth Buschmann  
Larry Caponigri  
Dan Cattau  
Yvonne Daniels  
Louis Elia

Susan Franzone  
Susan Hammon  
Bob Hale  
Phyllis Kersten  
Karen Kress  
Mary Beth Logas  
Mark Lucht  
Joe Modrich

Katarina Modrich  
Mike Rollheiser  
Steve Roskam  
Ron Rott  
Marge Sanger  
**Harrison Schedler**  
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*)  
**Tammi Gaspar** (*sister 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

A House in Austin

## In thanksgiving for

The 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of Carl Gruendler

## 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@graciverforest.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.*

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## Electronic giving

*Your financial gifts support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School.*

**On Venmo** Search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @graciverforest.

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**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. If you prefer a digital form, you can scan the QR code instead.



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Check all that apply:

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  - ☐ 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

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CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

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[gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org)

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

# THIS WEEK AT GRACE

## TODAY, DECEMBER 14

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 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons) .....	9:00 a.m.
Confirmation, Grades 7-8 (Youth Center) .....	9:00 a.m.
Adult Education (Seminar Room) .....	9:00 a.m.
<b>Worship – Holy Communion</b> .....	10:00 a.m.
Cookie Walk (Gym) .....	11:15 a.m.
Advent Christmas Concert (Sanctuary) .....	4:00 p.m.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

Breakfast Group (Church Library) .....	10:15 a.m.
Knitting Group (Church Library) .....	1:00 p.m.
Church Council (Conference Room) .....	7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

<b>School Chapel – Morning Prayer</b> (Sanctuary) .....	8:25 a.m.
Cornerstones Bible Study (Church Library) .....	10:00 a.m.
<b>Advent Worship – Morning Prayer</b> (Sanctuary) .....	11:30 a.m.
Cub Scouts Pack 4066 (Art Room) .....	4:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Room) .....	5:30 p.m.
Advent Supper (Fellowship Hall) .....	6:00 p.m.
<b>Advent Worship – Evening Prayer</b> (Sanctuary) .....	7:00 p.m.
Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) .....	7:45 p.m.

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Moms of Littles (Youth Center) .....	6:30 p.m.
Scout Meeting (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons) .....	6:30 p.m.
Justice and Peace Committee (Conference Room) .....	7:30 p.m.
Music of the Baroque Brass and Choral Concert (Sanctuary) .....	7:30 p.m.
Scouts (Gym) .....	8:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

Consonance Concert (Sanctuary) .....	7:30 p.m.
Religion in Literature (offsite) .....	7:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

Visitation for Peter Armstrong (Atrium) .....	9:30 a.m.
<b>Memorial Service for Peter Armstrong</b> .....	11:00 a.m.
Memorial Service Reception (Gym) .....	12:30 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**, Ministry Engagement Manager  
**Amanda Smith**, Communications Manager  
**Jim McClanahan**, Director of Administration & Finance  
**David Pfeiffer**, Facilities Manager  
**José Meza**, Technology Manager