



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**

First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28, 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 in loving memory of Margo Bonebrake and Marjorie Keene by the Henry, Kaszuba, and Scherer families

## **As We Gather**

On this fourth day of Christmas, we do not receive four colly (calling?) birds. In fact, it seems the festivities have ended entirely. After the Magi depart, the Holy Family is plunged into danger. Herod is intent upon destroying the newborn Jesus. An angel appears to Joseph for a second time, sending them to seek safety in Egypt. But Herod's evil knows no bounds. He has every child in and around Bethlehem put to death. Sadly, such evil is all too common in our world. It is for this reason Jesus comes. Twice more an angel gives guidance to Joseph, leading eventually to Nazareth, where Jesus would grow in wisdom and years. For Jesus, however, this is death delayed, not averted. The powers will eventually have their way with him on the cross. But out of his dying, the dream of life, abundant and eternal, bursts into the day.



# ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** What Child Is This  
Love Has Come

Setting by Charles W. Ore  
Setting by Christopher Uehlein

*We face the cross in procession.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Love Has Come

**ELW #292**



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es; Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

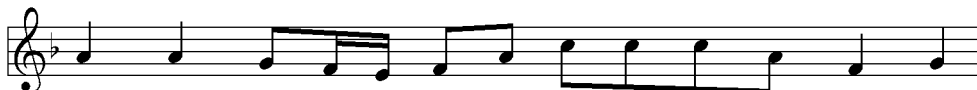
☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

## Hymn of Praise: Glory to God in the Highest



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord God,

you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers.

As you protected the infant Jesus,

so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

*We sit.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7–9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,

the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,

because of all that the LORD has done for us,

and the great favor to the house of Israel

that he has shown them according to his mercy,

according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people,

children who will not deal falsely";

and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup>in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;

he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G Thanks be to God.**

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

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

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10–18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

<sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Colossians 3:15–16

John Ferguson

**Choir** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**G** **REFRAIN** (*below*)



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

**G** **REFRAIN**



## HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13–23

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

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

Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

<sup>20</sup>Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

**SERMON:** The Dream in Danger

Pastor David R. Lyle  
Matthew 2:13–23



*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning

**ACS #1060**



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;  
2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,  
3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:  
leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;  
and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,  
through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,  
Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.  
guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.  
help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

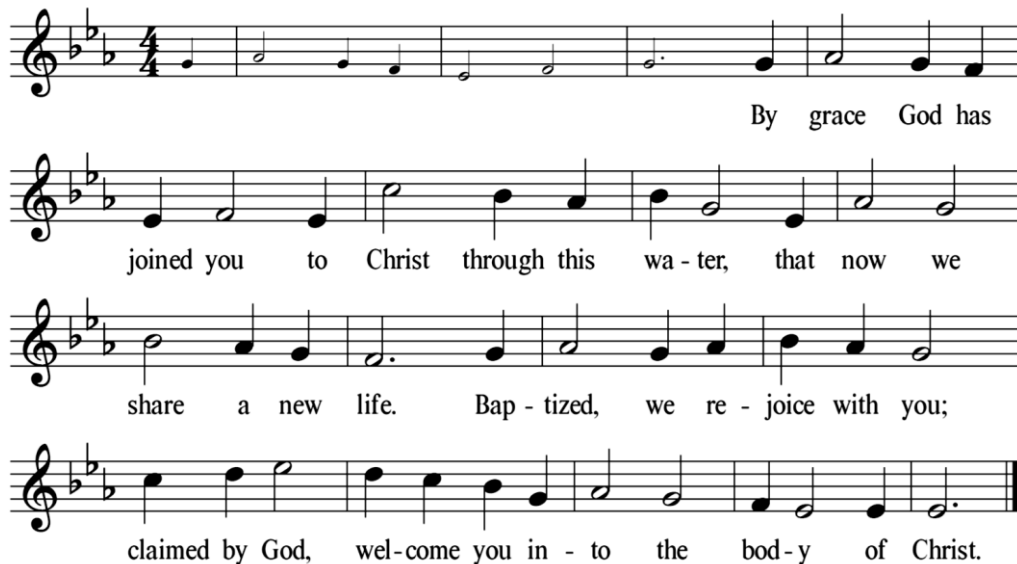
Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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

*Audrey Rae Hoyem*

*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

☞ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☞ **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**OFFERING/ANTHEM:** Away in a Manger

Arranged by K. Lee Scott

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

*Stanzas 1-2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, ca.1885*

*Stanza 3: Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892*

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY VERSE:** John 1:1, 14

Robert Wetzler

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth;  
and we have beheld his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

☞ Let us pray. Merciful Father,

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

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



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



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



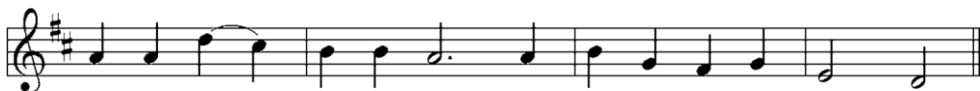
**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



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.

**P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

15



## 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:** Welcome, Precious Infant Lord

Carl Schalk

Welcome, precious infant Lord, so restless in the manger.

All is quiet in the night, no cause for you to weep.

Soon your eyes will seek the lost one and invite the stranger.

Close your heavy eyelids now and gently drift to sleep.

Now the sounds upon your lips are cries of helpless pleading;

Soon your mouth will speak the words of God's anointed Son.

Let your cries for now be silent, now no interceding.

Time will bring the dying groan, the breath of vict'ry won.

Safe you lie in swaddling clothes, yet bristling hay encroaches,

Sharp and rough against your foot, no comfort to your bed.

Now you kick against the darkness, but the day approaches

When your scarred and wounded heel will crush the serpent's head.

Jesus that your little hand might reach to me in blessing!

Soon your touch will heal the lame and give the blind their sight.

Let your hands instead be still, no work today addressing.

Hold me rather in your heart and sleep this holy night.

David Rogner



# HYMN: What Feast of Love

(blue) **WOV #701**



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



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



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



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

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.  
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

*We stand.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

**A** 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.

**A** Amen.

# ✠ SENDING ✠

## BENEDICTION

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

☒ Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(green) LBW #55



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



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



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



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

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

## DISMISSAL

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Norman Dello Joio

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister  
Deborah Maxwell, assisting minister  
Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson, deacon

Grace Parish Choir, choir  
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Stacia Taylor, Mary Beth Logas, lectors  
Norah Lewis, crucifer

Richard Calhoun, Al Swanson, gift bearers  
Lance Wilkening, Stephanie Wilkening, ushers  
Donna Serpico, Liz Hanson, altar guild

Susie Calhoun, Ruth Reko, Avery Tan, greeters  
George Hogenson, Michael Starrick, 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*)  
Carole Kinsland (*friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska*)  
Garrett Klein (*friend of Janet Sylvester*)  
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*)  
**Lavonne Millard** (*sister of Irmgard Swanson*)  
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*)  
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

The Night Ministry

## In thanksgiving for

The baptism of **Audrey Rae Hoyem** (*daughter of Pete Hoyem and Emily Colosimo;  
granddaughter of David and Carole Hoyem*)

## For those who mourn

**Barbara Carlson**

## 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](mailto:earmstrong@graceriverforest.org)) to be included in the weekly prayers. For more private prayer concerns, please contact Kathy Lucht ([kathy.lucht@gmail.com](mailto: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 @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](http://GraceRiverForest.org) and look for Donate on the home page menu.

**Or use the QR code.**



# THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**TODAY, DECEMBER 28**

Christmas Break – no Sunday School/Confirmation

**Worship – Holy Communion ..... 10:00 a.m.**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Building open 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30**

Building open 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31**

Building open for worship only

**New Year’s Eve Worship – Holy Communion..... 7:00 p.m.**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1**

**New Year’s Day Worship – Holy Communion..... 10:00 a.m.**

Building closed following worship

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 2**

Building closed

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 3**

Visitation for Marilyn Busse ..... **10:00 a.m.**

**Memorial Service for Marilyn Busse ..... 11:00 a.m.**

Memorial Service Reception (Fellowship Hall)..... **12:00 p.m.**

# 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**

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Fax: (708) 366-0966  
[www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org)  
[gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto: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