



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**

Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

## Welcome to Grace

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ—to love, to grow, and to serve. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the perforated page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

## Children's Resources

Activity bags, worship bulletins, and booster seats are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

## Nursery Care

The nursery is open and staffed at most worship services for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located across from Fellowship Hall. From the atrium, go through the Lamb Door by the elevator, up half a flight of stairs and turn right. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, up the stairs and turn left. A silent paging system allows the nursery staff to contact parents when needed.

## Holy Communion

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the bread and wine of Communion, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

## Assistance in Worship

For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated. Contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

## Electronic Devices

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices during worship. Thank you.

## Grace Council Statement on Racism

Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

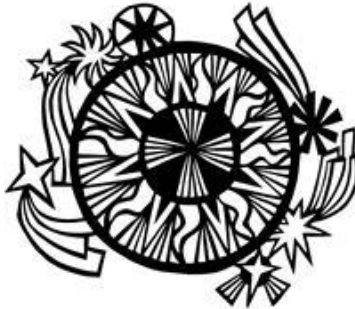
We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

### **Altar Flowers**

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

### **As We Gather**

The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.



## ✠ GATHERING ✠

**PRELUDE:** Partita on "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Jan Bender

*We stand.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P** Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

**We are truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,  
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN: As with Gladness Men of Old***(green)* **LBW #82**

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed;  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

**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.
- Q** **And also with you.**

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



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



**B** 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 God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.  
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives,  
and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*We sit.*

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

**L** The Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.



## PSALM 72: 1–7, 10–14

ANTIPHON: All kings shall bow before him.

Richard Hillert

- Ⓐ 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.
- Ⓢ **The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | shall pay tribute,\*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba | offer gifts.**
- Ⓐ All kings shall bow | down before him,\*  
and all the nations | do him service.
- Ⓢ **For he shall deliver the poor who cries out | in distress,\*  
and the oppressed who | has no helper.**
- Ⓐ He shall have pity on the low- | ly and poor;\*,  
he shall preserve the lives | of the needy.
- Ⓢ **He shall redeem their lives from oppres- | sion and violence,\*  
and dear shall their blood be | in his sight.**

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**L** The Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.

*We stand.*

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Matthew 2:2

Robert Wetzler

Alleluia. We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1–12

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Troy E. Medlin  
Matthew 2:1-12

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

*(green)* **LBW #76**

Setting of Stanza 5 by Michael D. Costello



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's  
2 Come, heav'n - ly Bride - groom, light di - vine, and deep with - in  
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there falls  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us, when



own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's race, King Da - vid's Son, our Lord and mas -  
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch -  
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls  
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him



ter, you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly!  
es of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing.  
with heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure!  
here and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich in  
 Now, though dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and dis -  
 Let your mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! for you  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life for -

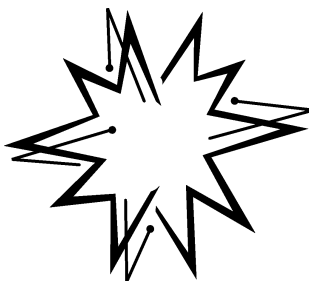


bles - sing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

[Choir] 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!  
 Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 our voices gaily blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Great is he, the King of glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 the Lord we love is first and last,  
 the end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 transport us to that happy place  
 beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608



## NICENE CREED

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

**C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each petition concludes:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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

**C** **Amen.**

# ✠ MEAL ✠

## PEACE OF CHRIST

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Q** And also with you.

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

*We sit.*

**OFFERING/VOLUNTARY:** O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Dieterich Buxtehude

*We stand as the gifts are presented.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** Long God's Faithful People Waited

K. Lee Scott

1. Long God's faith - ful peo - ple wait - ed, Search - ing for the  
2. Proph - ets told His king - ly sta - tion, Spoke His hon - or,  
prop - er time; Yearn - ing for the Lord's ap - pear - ing;  
sang His praise; Seers re - vealed His death and suf - f'ring,  
Watch - ing ev - er for a sign. Through the mists of time they  
Pow'rs and prince - doms to a - maze. Praise the Fa - ther, praise the  
saw Him, With the Ho - ly Spir - it's aid; Told the glo - ry  
Spir - it: God of fu - ture years and past; Praise to Him who  
of came His com - ing; He, whom earth and heav - en made.  
came from heav - en When the time had come at last.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**Q** 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**P** Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.  
By your powerful word you created all things.  
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.  
He is your Light, shining in our darkness  
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing,  
his dying and rising,  
and his promise to come again,  
we await that day when all the universe  
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,  
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,  
we may be light for the world,  
revealing the brilliance 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.

**G 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.

## 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.*

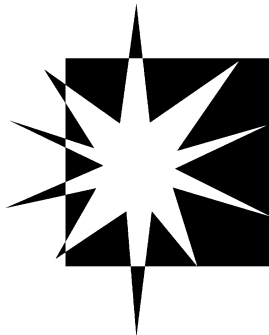
*Your need may be healing from physical illness, spiritual or emotional distress, grief, loss, or  
anxiety, for yourself or a family member.*

## MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

**ANTHEM:** Arise, Shine

K. Lee Scott

Arise, shine; for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is risen on you.  
Darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people;  
But the Lord shall arise upon you, and his glory shall appear upon you. Alleluia!  
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Alleluia!  
Isaiah 60:1–3, alt.

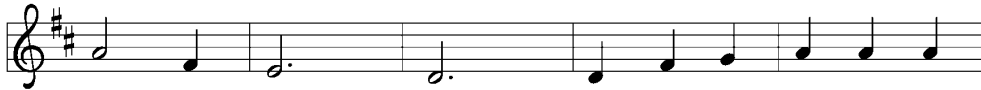


**HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

(blue) **WOV #649**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

*We stand.*

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

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

**C Amen.**

**A** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life;  
and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **✠ SENDING ✠**

### **BENEDICTION**

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

**C Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN: Rise, Shine, You People!

(green) LBW #393



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent his Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free-dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, with grace un - bound-ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion his new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOLTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, b. 1934

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## DISMISSAL

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE: O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Michael D. Costello

## **LEADING WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister

Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister

Paulette Reddel, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Grace Parish Choir, choir

Eunice Eifert, Al Swanson, lectors

Avery Tan, Mikey Starrick, crucifer/Book bearer

Julie Modrich, Tom Thomas Jr., gift bearers

Linda Bernard and Diana Sicuro, anointers

Paul Koester, Tom Maxwell, Mary Rasmusson, ushers

Liz Hanson, Marilyn Moehlenkamp, altar guild

James Claud, Mary Jane Keitel, Ruth Reko, greeters

Kat Starrick, Michael Starrick, livestream audio/video

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## LET US PRAY...

Jill Baumgaertner	Louis Elia	Mark Lucht	Harrison Schedler
Ann Bresnen	Susan Franzone	Joe Modrich	Gick Schmidt
Miriam Bretscher	Susan Hammon	Katarina Modrich	Linda Schwab
MaryBeth Buschmann	Bob Hale	Mike Rollheiser	Bonnie Shaner
Larry Caponigri	Phyllis Kersten	Steve Roskam	Rhea Sprecher
Dan Cattau	Karen Kress	Ron Rott	Madison Staples
Yvonne Daniels	Mary Beth Logas	Marge Sanger	Virginia Walker

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*)  
 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*)  
 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*)  
 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*)  
 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 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday of Stacia Taylor

## For those who mourn

**Ernie Baumann** (*friend of many at Grace*)

**Gail Brinkmeier** (*friend of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)

**Dave Gillen** (*friend of Deb and Tom Maxwell*)

**Daniel Treier**

**Linda Webb** (*friend of Jill and Martin Baumgaertner*)

## 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

David Franzone

Karen McMahon

Carol Prinz

Bruce Cordes

Patricia Herendeen

Susan Messerli

Tim Sandvoss

Christopher Davis

Joan Koerber

Dave Moeller

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.*

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

**Online donation** Go to GraceRiverForest.org and look for Donate on the home page menu. Or use the QR code.



# Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- ☐ I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- ☐ I am interested in a path toward membership.
- ☐ I would like to know more about Grace School.
- ☐ I would like to receive Grace’s weekly e-mail,  
*Sunday Is Coming.*
- ☐ I would like one of the pastors to contact me  
via (check one) ☐ Phone or ☐ E-mail.

GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL

7300 Division Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305  
Phone: (708) 366-6900  
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[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.

# THIS WEEK AT GRACE

## TODAY, JANUARY 4

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

## MONDAY, JANUARY 5

Building open 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

Building open 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Breakfast Group (Church Library)..... 10:15 a.m.

Health Committee (Church Library)..... 7:00 p.m.

Property Committee (Conference Room)..... 7:00 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Building open 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Cornerstones (Church Library) ..... 10:00 a.m.

Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)..... 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

Yoga (Fellowship Hall)..... 6:30 p.m.

Board of Discipleship (Conference Room) ..... 7:30 p.m.

Scout Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Commons)..... 7:30 p.m.

Scouts (Gym)..... 8:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Finding Hope (Church Library)..... 10:00 a.m.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Quilting Group (South Apartment)..... 9:00 a.m.

Kickert Memorial Service (Sanctuary) ..... 12:00 p.m.

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor  
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor  
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus  
Michael D. Costello, Cantor  
Taylor-Imani Gates, Principal  
Julie Modrich, Children’s Ministry Coordinator  
Amanda Smith, Communications Coordinator  
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance  
David Pfeiffer, Facilities Manager  
José Meza, Technology Manager