

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

The Epiphany of Our Lord (Observed)

January 3rd, 2021

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “Going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:11)

Welcome to Grace! We're Glad You've Joined Us!

WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

Worship bulletins (age 3-6) are available for your children to use during the service. Please see an usher if you need assistance finding them.

Children are **always** welcome - we don't want anything to keep families from attending! From time to time a child will naturally have a difficult moment in worship. If that happens and you feel a need to step out, please make use of our Church Narthex and Entrance, so you may still be able to follow along in worship until your child is ready to return again!

If you would like to include a **prayer for someone** in our worship today, please add it to the Prayer Request Sheet found on the podium in the narthex.

A few minutes prior to the start of worship, our organist will begin playing the "Prelude". At this time we set aside our personal conversations and use this as a time to prepare for worship. Consider offering a silent prayer (sample prayers are offered on the opening page of our hymnal), reading through the Scripture lessons for the day, or listening to the music as we prepare ourselves to enter God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

We're glad you're with us. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Taggatz. If you are in search of a new church home, or are interested in learning more about Grace, we would be happy to visit with you. We hope you'll be back and give us an opportunity to know you!

As We Gather- "People Who Don't Belong"

We reflect today on what it means to belong. We may often feel out of place at school, at work, or perhaps even in our congregation. Perhaps the Wise Men felt like they were out of place in Jerusalem. Yet, regardless of feelings, God invites all people from all nations to be heirs of His kingdom. In Christ, we all belong, and we always will.

Order of Service...as outlined in your bulletin...

We Invite a moment of silence during the prelude for Prayer

As our organist begins the prelude we move from our regular conversations and the happenings of the world around us in order to turn our attention to worship. **Please take these moments as an opportunity to focus on prayer** (Suggested prayers prior to worship may be found on the opening page of your hymnal) and meditation. Make use of this time to look through our service in anticipation of the scripture we will share and the hymns we will sing. God richly bless us as we gather in God's presence today! We hope you will take these moments as a time to transition into worship as we have entered into God's presence through Word and Sacrament.

✂ PREPARATION ✂

OPENING HYMN 397 As with Gladness Men of Old (vs. 1-5)



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-at-ed 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.

Stand

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Pastor: All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

People: Kings shall bring Him gifts.

Pastor: For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

People: that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.

✕ WORD ✕

HYMN 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory (vs. 3)

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

ref *Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in Your incarnation, You dwelt among us in light and love. Help us to be light to those who do not know You and to share Your love with those who are in darkness, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING—Isaiah 60:1-6

(The nations shall come to Your light.)

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A 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 bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol Him, all peoples!

For great is His steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE—Ephesians 3:1-12
(*The mystery hidden for ages*)

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE—Matthew 2:2b

Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL—Matthew 2:1-12

(The Magi visit Jesus.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶“‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED—*Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✕ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Message—“Baby Gifts” (Matt. 2:1-12) *The children of the congregation are invited to come up to the chancel area for a special message for them. Please note—parents of small children may also come up near the chancel area to accompany their children for the message)*

SERMON HYMN 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (vs. 1-4)



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



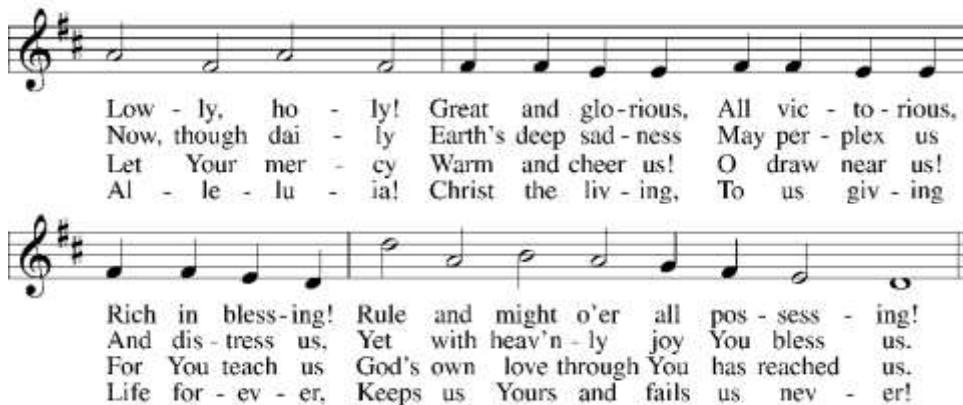
own truth and light, A-glow with grace and mer-cy!
 our hearts now shine; There light a flame un-dy-ing!
 from God a-bove; A ray of pur-est plea-sure,
 not yet be-gun Was this old earth's foun-da-tion!



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,
 Now, though dai - ly Earth's deep sad - ness May per - plex us
 Let Your mer - cy Warm and cheer us! O draw near us!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, To us giv - ing
 Rich in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
 And dis - tress us, Yet with heav'n - ly joy You bless us.
 For You teach us God's own love through You has reached us.
 Life for - ev - er, Keeps us Yours and fails us nev - er!

SERMON—“You Are Included in God’s Church” (Ephesians 3.1-13)

OFFERTORY HYMN 783 Take My Life and Let It Be (vs. 3-4)

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.

OFFERING

During this Covid-19 Pandemic, we will not be passing the offering plates during worship, but will have them at the entrance of the church for people to drop their offerings off before or after the worship service. Thank you for your generosity and support of Jesus Christ our Lord’s Kingdom work!!! God bless you!!!

You can now give online. It’s easy, fast, and secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you for supporting our mission. Text the word: graceoc to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our web-site: graceoakcreek.org. You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly/ monthly offering. Those using this method of giving may still bring their envelope if they wish and simply write ‘online giving’ on the outside and place it in the offering plate.)



Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, there are many divisions in the church, divisions based on class, race, wealth, and age, divisions that need not exist. Bring unity where there is division, peace where there is discord, and reconciliation where there is conflict. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, comfort all those who are suffering in the darkness of grief, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort them with the hope and promise of the resurrection to eternal life. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, strengthen all marriages, encourage those who are single, and help us to recognize the value of each person, for Your redemption stretches to all people. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, bless all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they seek to reflect Your light to all the nations. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them, and heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, shine Your light of hope upon all those who are caregivers. Send them rest and peace, knowing that in You their labor is not in vain. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

Pastor: Lord, we commend all of these things to Your caring hands, trusting in Your mercy to all people. Light of the world,

People: dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid.

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became flesh and dwelt among us on earth, so that we might dwell with Him in everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (*from LSB Divine Service Setting 3*)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our reconciliation and our peace. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to ever lead us to the light of Christ. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Though we may feel as if we do not belong, we pray that You would gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD—

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood in this Sacrament, You lead us to remember all that You have done for us before we were born, to realize that You are with us today, and to await Your promised return one day to receive us into Your eternal kingdom. So remember us in Your kingdom now and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER—Matthew 6:9-13

People: 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.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (from LSB Divine Service Setting 3)

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord’s Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to “*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*” the Good News of God’s Grace!

Grace Continuous Line Communion—During this Covid-19 Pandemic we are doing continuous line communion here at Grace, we will do the Pulpit side first and then the lectern side, Pastor Taggatz and the Elder on duty will be using a mask and hand sanitizer before and after communion, and if you would like the Elder and Pastor to commune you in the pew, please be sure to let an Elder or an Usher know.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (vs. 1-8)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom-y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day-light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der. That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound-less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un-bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered; Christ's true bod - y, for you
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly,
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love required;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE—937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace (vs. 1-3)

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have welcomed us into the Body of Christ and have given us Your Church as a home for all nations. Strengthen us through this Sacrament, that we may love others as Christ first loved us; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN 412 The People That in Darkness Sat (vs. 1-4)



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.

Logan (healing & strength) Great Grandson of Pauline Parker

Pastor Bill Wurm, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law

Angela Strasse (cancer) friend of Taggatz family

Leigh Schmeiser (healing)

Mark Pulkownik (hospice)

Dave Vitek (serving on the Greenfield Police Department) and Milw. Police Officers

Norma Manoil (cancer)

Eleanor Taggatz (healing & strength) Pastor Taggatz's Grandma

Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother

Cindy Riemer (cancer)

Valerie (fighting cancer), Cathy Week's niece

Paul Carpenter (hospitalized) relative of Stephanie Gulizia

Ronnie Boyd (healing & strength)

Art Hartsmandorfer (healing & strength) friend of Doc Medek

Paul Carpenter (COVID-19) relative of Stephanie Gulizia

Steve & Joy Gettelman (healing & strength) Parents of Mr. Gettelman

Dan Gettelman (healing & strength) Brother of Mr. Gettelman

Delores Riemer (physical therapy on her knee)

Bob Morgan (healing & strength)

Aunt Valinda (hospice) Aunt of Glenn Dotson

Lori Jablonski (upcoming surgery)

June Nowack (hospitalized) Mother of Keith Nowack

For our Homebound Members at Grace:

Betty Lemmer, Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, June Roewer, Art Steinborn, Ernst & Patricia Groth, Gloria Kilponen, and Mark Pulkownik.

We mourn with the family of Mitzi Gamroth, as they grieve over the recent death of her father, *Dan Ryan*. Oh Lord, we pray that we may not grieve as those who have no hope, but that we may rejoice in the promise of the resurrection to life everlasting, and that we may encourage one another with these words, *we pray especially for Mitzi's* family as they mourn her father's recent death, that casting every care upon you, they may know the consolation of your love. Amen.

***All those on the Grace Prayer Line dealing with long term health and medical issue;
Hear our prayer.***

We encourage you to submit prayer requests for worship and/or our prayer line by emailing:

Paulinemom@aol.com

If you do not have access to a computer you may call:

Prayers for worship:		Church Office	414-762-8990
Requests on prayer line:	10am-3 pm	Carol Thurber	414-762-9615
	3pm-9 pm	Pauline Parker	414-764-5574

Assisting with the Divine Service

We thank God for all those individuals who have been involved in supporting our worship services this week. If you are interested in assisting in any of the ways shown below, please speak with pastor or one of our elders.

	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Mike Huber	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Glenn Dotson	Lisa Kamprath
<u>Acolytes</u>	Andrea Szefflinski	
<u>Communion Set Up</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Linen Care</u>	Gail Nowakowski	

Pastor Taggatz Office Hours for Grace Lutheran Church

Monday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Tuesday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Wednesday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am-1:00 pm
Friday (Pastor's Day Off)

Visitations: Monday-Thursday afternoons

*For appointments, call Grace Lutheran's church office or Pastor's cell phone.
For emergencies, call Pastor Taggatz: 715-467-1231*

Church Secretary, Sarah Anderson: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:15 am-1:15 pm

THE LUTHERAN HOUR — "**Too Much**" Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. The Gospel according to St. Mark shows us the Savior Who is always on the move. (Mark 1:1 - 2:12) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: lhm.org** scroll down the page and click on, "listen now." Or listen to any of these local radio stations on Sunday mornings.

WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	103.3	FM	Sun	6:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM

2021 Altar Flowers

- The sign-up sheet for 2021 Altar Flowers is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral: 414.762.0246
- Flowers should be brought or delivered to church before the Thursday service
- You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca will provide you with a vase liner.
- Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will stay fresh for Sunday's services.

Sunday School Break-We will be taking a break from Sunday School on Sunday, December 27th and Sunday, January 3rd. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 10th, 2021 at 9:15am. Thank you for your continued support of Christian Education here at Grace Lutheran!!!

Grace Lutheran Oak Creek Youth Group Meeting-On Friday, January 15th at 4:30pm we will be having a Youth Group Meeting at Grace Lutheran Church to talk about our plans for the year of 2021. We will be discussing when our Youth Group will be meeting on a monthly basis here at Grace, about future events for our Youth Group, and the possibility of attending the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering. Youth at Grace ages 5th through 12th Grade are eligible to attend.

Scrip Coordinator needed for the church. If you are interested please contact our church office at 414.762.8990. It will require only a minimal amount of work. Scrip is Fundraising while you shop. Grace Lutheran Church will raise money instantly when families use retail gift cards to pay for everyday purchases, like gas and groceries, instead of credit or debit cards, cash or check. *This volunteer must be a member of Grace Lutheran Church.*

Power Point Team

Pastor Taggatz is looking for a few people that would like to help him with running the Power Point during our worship services. If interested, please contact him directly at 715-467-1231 or jtaggatz@yahoo.com.

Your 2021 Grace Lutheran Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick your envelopes up and we thank you for your continued support of our Church, School, and Early Childcare Center through the stewardship of your time, talents, and treasures! God bless you!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT IS A GREAT COOK? We are still looking to hire a hot lunch coordinator for our school hot lunch program. Duties would include, but not limited to:

- Creating a healthy, well balanced monthly hot lunch menu.
- Order food and supplies required for daily meals.
- Cook, serve, and clean up daily for the hot lunch program.

Interested individuals should contact Mr. Gettelman directly at: principal@graceoakcreek.org or 414-762-3655

Altar Guild

There are a few openings on the Linen Care and Communion Set-up team we are looking to fill for the upcoming year. If you are interested in serving the Lord and Grace church in this way, please contact Jennifer Olen at 414.305.3740, olenjennifer@aol.com

Adult Membership Class at Grace Oak Creek –“God Connects”

We are forming a new adult membership class. It will be on Sundays in January and February 2021 starting on Sunday, January 10th at 1pm and it will go till 3pm each Sunday until Sunday, February 7th, 2021. Whether you have questions about Christ or want to deepen your faith in Him, this class will explore what the Bible says about our God, and how His love gives direction and meaning to your life today and forever. This class is designed for those who are interested in learning or reviewing the foundations of the Christian faith. Attendance at the class may lead to membership in our church, but there are no obligations. Please let us know if you need childcare to attend this new members class. Watch an introductory video at www.lhm.org/GodConnects.

We have a new program at Grace. It's called, "Pastors and Elders Caring for the Church and Each Other." In order to better serve our parishioners spiritual, mental, and emotional needs Grace's Elders will be regularly contacting our members through phone and email. Please don't be caught off guard by this. We are just trying to better serve our members spiritual needs and also develop a closer relationship with the families of our congregation.

Mitten Tree

Thank you for your generosity! The South Milwaukee Human Concerns ministry value our donations!

Hats - 69
Mitten/Gloves - 54 pairs
Scarves - 16

Thank you again! ~Grace Ladies Guild

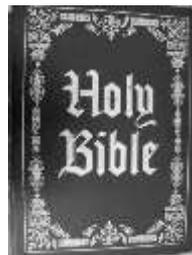
Greeting Card Ministry

The greeting-card ministry consists of volunteers mailing cards and notes of encouragement to people in nursing facilities, who are homebound, or otherwise can't be at church regularly. *'Think of your neighbor, love your neighbor.'* This is the way people answer that message, letting people know they haven't been forgotten. If you would like to share in this ministry please take a card which is provided for you on the table in the narthex. Remember...you are giving joy to these people.

Stewardship Minute

As faithful stewards, we are guided by the Holy Spirit. Our faithful stewardship begins when the Holy Spirit indwells us, and we respond with a personal commitment to consecrate ourselves to Christ. In Christ, we can become faithful stewards. Our stewardship goes beyond adherence to laws and traditions. We delight in serving our Lord. We do not see our stewardship as being compulsory; rather we see it as a privilege. Because the Holy Spirit transforms us, we respond in a spontaneous manner. We do not have to be coerced into giving our time, talents, and treasures. We give our gifts and ourselves cheerfully.

**WISDOM COMES FROM GOD, AND
HE IMPARTS UNDERSTANDING
TO US THROUGH HIS WORD.**



IN THE WORD FOR THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD (OBSERVED)

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Seventh Petition and Conclusion

Verse of the week: John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.”

Psalm of the week: Psalm 104:16-35

Hymn of the week: (LSB 410) “Within the Father’s House” (stanzas 1-2)

Bible Stories for the Week:

Sunday— The Flight into Egypt—Matthew 2:13-23

Monday— Circumcision, Purification of Mary, and Presentation—Luke 2:21-24

Tuesday— Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ-child—Luke 2:25-40

Wednesday— The Epiphany of Our Lord—Matthew 2:1-12

Thursday— The Flight into Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matthew 2:13-23

Friday— The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52

Saturday— I Have Put My Spirit Upon Him—Isaiah 42:1-7

“God is not just our God or the God of just our people or just our nation or our congregation or our denomination or our demographic category or our tribe or our ethnicity or our language. There is no justice if it’s just about just us. No, God is the God of all time and all space and all people. In Christ, all things hang together. Step into your new year with this fresh recognition that the Holy Spirit wants to fill every nook and cranny of your life until you overflow with God’s everlasting love for everybody.” *Pastor John Nunes on The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org* “Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. www.word-of-hope.org; 888-217-8679.

OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Sunday	1/3	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am	Divine Worship Service NO Sunday School @ church NO Adult Bible Study @ church
		10:30 am	Divine Worship Service
Monday	1/4	2:30 pm 6:30 pm	Confirmation Class, school children Confirmation Class, public school
Tuesday	1/5	7:00 am 6:30 pm	Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner Stephen Ministry, “Continuing Education” @ church
Wednesday	1/6	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study @ church Board Meetings @ church
Thursday	1/7	6:30 pm	Divine Worship Service
Saturday	1/9	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study @ church
Sunday	1/10	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am	Divine Worship Service Sunday School @ church Adult Bible Study
		10:30 am 1:00 pm	Divine Worship Service Adult Membership Class @ church

SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We have gathered today to celebrate the most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us: His forgiveness, life and salvation. It would be our honor to have you join us again next week as we “Celebrate, Teach, and Share” the Good News of God’s Grace among all people.

Grace is committed to supporting families through our Early Childhood Center, Day School, and High School. We are blessed to be a member of the Lutheran High School Association of Milwaukee.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990(O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC
3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office
Mailing Address
8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

