

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”  
Ephesians 2:8



*Image:* “The people that in darkness sat, A glorious light have seen; The light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been.” (LSB 412:1)

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

## WORSHIP NOTES FOR OUR GUESTS

**Worship bulletins & worship activity bags** (age 2-8) 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.

**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 “Wisdom of Faith: Seeing, Following, Worshiping”**

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, everyone was surprised and troubled. Few in Israel remembered God's promise through Isaiah that other nations would be attracted to them. They had forgotten that Gentiles would come bearing gifts to a future just and righteous King. Only after God worked faith in Saul/Paul's heart was the message clearly announced that all people share in the promise of Christ. Today, God's Word calls us not only to see the light of God's love in Christ but also to emulate the Magi. With joy, our faith moves us to follow where God leads and to worship our Lord, in whom alone we have boldness and access with confidence to the grace of God. That is, Epiphany is not only a celebration of the past but also a call to shine God's light in our lives today.

### **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.** 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.

# Order of Service—As outlined in your bulletin

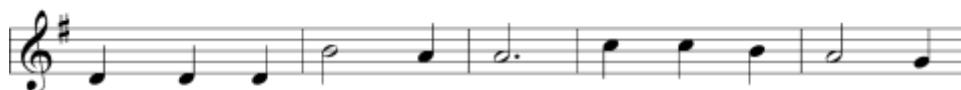
## ✕ PREPARATION ✕

### OPENING HYMN 554

### O Jesus, King Most Wonderful (vs. 1-5)



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!  
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,  
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,  
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,  
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -  
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -  
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the  
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -  
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:  
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.  
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:  
self in - flame To seek You more and more!  
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

*Stand*

### INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES (*Isaiah 60:1, 5-6; Matthew 2:2, 10-11*)

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

People: We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.

Pastor: You shall see and be radiant.

People: They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Pastor: They shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**People: And they fell down and worshiped Him.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** (*Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.; Ephesians 3:11-12*)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Although God has graciously showered the light of His love on us, we have not responded in lives of total devotion. But because He has graciously promised to forgive, let us go to Him in the name of “Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”

**People: Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that we have let the distractions of this world turn our eyes from seeing the true Light. We have not loved You with our whole hearts. Forgive us and renew in us hearts to see, follow, and worship You alone.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, our heavenly Father sent His Son to take to His cross all our sins, and His Holy Spirit has graciously shined the light of faith in Christ into our hearts. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace shining down on us from above and for the salvation of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace so that the Church of God would more brightly shine the light of the Gospel in the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who join us here to thank God for the unsearchable riches of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE 412

The People That in Darkness Sat (vs. 1-4, 6)



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 -  
 △ 6 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us



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  
 Thine a - lone, Who with the Fa - ther ev - er art And



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.  
 Ho - ly Spir - it, one, And Ho - ly Spir - it, one.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You led the Magi to see in the star the news of Christ's birth. We give thanks that You have enabled us to see Him as our Savior.

People: Grant us strength of faith to follow where He leads and to worship Him with all that we are and have;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** *Isaiah 60:1-6*

**(The Lord promises to visit His people as light, attracting other nations to His glory.)**

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. <sup>4</sup>Lift 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. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <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 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*)

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

**People: Extol Him, all peoples!**

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

**EPISTLE LESSON** *Ephesians 3:1-12*

**(Paul rejoices in his calling to preach to the Gentiles.)**

<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which 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. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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. <sup>8</sup>To 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, <sup>9</sup>and to bring to light for everyone 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 manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has

realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in 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*

Pastor: Alleluia. Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?

**People: For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 2:1-12*

*(The Magi are examples for our lives of faith.)*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "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." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"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.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>After 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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And 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. <sup>12</sup>And 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*



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-s  
 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 “Wisdom of Faith: Seeing, Following, Worshiping” (Matthew 2:1-12)

OFFERTORY HYMN 397

As with Gladness Men of Old (vs. 1-3)



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,



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,



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.

**OFFERING/ATTENDANCE** As the offerings are being passed to you by the ushers, we ask that you take this time to fill out the attendance pads located in your pews so that we can acknowledge your presence with us today. We are so glad that you have joined us in worship here at Grace!!! We also 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 by texting: **graceoc** to 206-859-9405, use this QR Code or head to our website at: [graceoakcreek.org](http://graceoakcreek.org). You may give a onetime gift or set up your regular weekly or 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** *Ephesians 3:6-7, 10*

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves, the Church around the world, and all people in their various circumstances. For ourselves, that we thank God as a congregation and in our individual lives for revealing to us that we are all “partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,” let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who minister “according to the gift of God’s grace” that has been given to them, people of faith who are in government, armed forces, local police departments, professional and volunteer caregivers, and workers in the health professions, that they serve those under their care in safety and with wisdom, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all for whom the mystery of Christ is still hidden, that through the Church here and around the world “the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known” to them, so that they approach God in confident faith for Jesus’ sake, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], that they boldly bring their petitions to God in faith and that we open ourselves to be part of the answers that God so graciously provides, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who have gone before us in faith—the Magi, the writers of the Scriptures, patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, and those who brought the Good News to us, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**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, whose birth was announced by a star seen by the Magi, whose coming was foretold in Scripture and followed by those Wise Men, and who was worshiped by them with gifts and great joy. 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 Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 208*)

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for having mercy on us and sending Your only-begotten Son into our history to die as one of us. Because of Your gift of faith, we see Him as our Savior and seek to follow His ways. Gathered now in joyous worship to partake of His body and blood, we ask that You 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** (*1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*)

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom 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** (*Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 210*)

**C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**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!

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE**—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning (vs. 1-5)



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on His cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield Him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.  
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

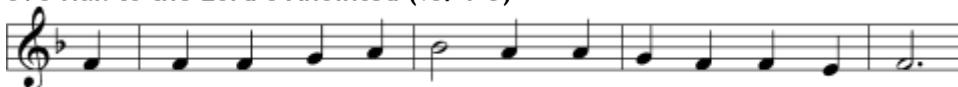


Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
An - gels a - dore Him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.  
Myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?  
Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

### 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (vs. 1-5)



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;  
 5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
 To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
 Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.  
 All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.  
 From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,  
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,  
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;  
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.  
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

### NUNC DIMITTIS (from Divine Service Setting 4, pg. 211)

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
 Depart in heav'nly peace,  
 For I have seen the glory  
 Of Your redeeming grace:  
 A light to lead the Gentiles  
 Unto Your holy hill,  
 The glory of Your people,  
 Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,  
 All glory to the Son,  
 All glory to the Spirit,  
 Forever Three in One;  
 For as in the beginning,  
 Is now, shall ever be,  
 God's triune name resounding  
 Through all eternity.

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. Trusting in Your gracious forgiveness,

People: we pray that we see You accompanying us each day, follow where You lead, and give You praise and worship in all that we do and say;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)**

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.

People: Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN 411**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (vs. 1-3)**



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



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
 I want to look at Je - sus.  
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.  
 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,  
 When we have run with patience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as You serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*For all who worship this day, bless us through your Word, O Lord.* Pam Umaski (healing & strength); Terri Meyer (cancer); Pastor Bill Wurm, Pastor Taggatz's father-in-law; Angela Strasse (cancer) friend of Taggatz family; Leigh Schmeiser (healing); Julia Oelke (Army National Guard Medic and her Unit deployed) Debbie Oelke's daughter; Milwaukee Police Officers; Tom Janes (healing & strength) Diane Pielsnik's brother; Bev Buretta (healing & strength); Donna Horkan (healing & strength) sister of June Roewer; Greg Puetz (healing & strength); Jay (cancer) friend of Lisa Kamprath; Randy (cancer) Lori Kachelmeier's brother; Tom Adams, relative of Pauline Parker; Shirley Stachowiak (cancer) Sharon Iseli's niece; Ken Dotson (healing & strength) Brother of Glenn Dotson; Larry Abelt Sr. (healing & strength) Leah Abelt's Father-in-Law; Kevin (healing & strength) Katie Nowack's friend; Andie (cancer) friend of Joy Lussier. Sindy Schmidt (back issues) friend of Lori Kachelmeier; Tim (surgery) Donna Dotson's brother; Gordon (healing) relative of Janine Pieper, Renee Lutzke (healing); Michelle Stein (cancer) Sister in law of Pat Toman; Christine (healing) friend of Jill Nowack; Bryghtten (healing) relative of Carol Thurber; Greg Nowakowski (healing & strength); Myles King (blood disorder) son of Matthew & Meredith King; James Giambi (healing) Donna Dotson's Sister in Law's Nephew; Cindy Riemer (cancer); Kathy Senger (cancer) Lowell & Pat Johnson's friend.

**For our Homebound Members at Grace:** Carol Loveall, Betty Lemmer, Kathy Gaudian, Bernice Byklum, June Roewer, Art Steinborn, Ernst & Patricia Groth, and Gloria Kilponen.

***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](mailto: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>New Years Eve</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 am</u>	<u>Sunday 10:30 am</u>
<u>Elders</u>	Greg Nowakowski	Tom Hengst	Rick Weeks
<u>Readers</u>	Lisa Kamprath	Erica Vitek	Beth Jackson
<u>Communion Set-up</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jeanne Meyer	Jeanne Meyer
<u>Linens</u>	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen	Jennifer Olen
<u>Acolytes</u>			Junior Edgerton
<u>Ushers</u>	Marline Voss, Lance Kopperud	Leah Abelt, Paige Vitek, Benjamin Tindall, Henry Tindall	Cathy Weeks, Rick Weeks, Amelia Poellet, Dachs Poellet

### 2022 Altar Flowers

- ❖ Sign-up for 2022 Altar Flowers! The sign-up sheet is posted on the white board in the narthex.
- ❖ Place your flower order directly with Parkway Floral in South Milwaukee at (414) 762-0246.
- ❖ Flowers will be delivered to church, free of charge, before the Thursday evening service.
- ❖ You can also supply your own arrangement. Rachel Miliacca at the ECC can provide you with a vase liner.
- ❖ Your flowers will be refrigerated after the Thursday service so they will be fresh for Sunday's services.
- ❖ Take your flowers to enjoy at home after the 10:30am service on Sunday.

**Reminder:** If you want to put flowers on the altar, you must pay for it directly to the florist (Parkway Floral, South Milwaukee) if using a florist. Do not put money in an envelope and put it in the offering baskets. Thank you.

Your 2022 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! \*\*Please do not use until January 2022.\*\*

**LUTHERAN HOUR -"Gospel Power for Personal Patience"** Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. No one likes to wait! Hear God's promises for impatient people. (Luke 2:40-52) **The Lutheran Hour can be heard any time on the internet at: [lhm.org](http://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

### IN THE WORD FOR THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

**Catechism:** Lord's Prayer—Seventh Petition and Conclusion

**Verse of the week:** Romans 8:26, "*The Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*"

**Psalm of the week:** Psalm 140

**Hymn of the week:** (LSB 412) "The People That in Darkness Sat" (stanzas 1-4)

**Bible Readings 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—Matthew 2:13-15

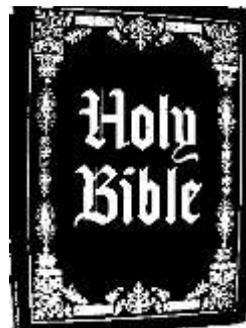
Friday— The Slaughter of the Holy Innocents—Matthew 2:16-23

Saturday— Isaiah 42:1-7

**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.**

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, Who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”  
(James 1:5).



“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](http://lutheransforlife.org) Hurting from abortion? Word of Hope can help. [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org); 888-217-8679.

**GIVING TO GRACE THROUGH THE THRIVENT CHOICE PROGRAM**—When you're ready to make an impact on the causes and nonprofits you care most about, we're here to help. Through our Thrivent Choice® program, you can make a personal donation or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to more than 40,000 churches and nonprofits. Eligible members can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars®. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership. **\*\*\*Special notice regarding the Thrivent Choice Program:** Thrivent members wishing to continue their automatic withdrawal to the charity of their choice will have to let Thrivent know either by e-mail or phone. All you have to do is call this 1-800 number in order to see if you have Thrivent Choice dollars to give. To continue to direct your Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice call: 800-THRIVENT(800-847-4836) and state " *Thrivent Choice.*"

**For More information on the Thrivent Choice Program please go to:**  
<https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html>

**Growing In Grace  
 December 24, 25 & 26, 2021**

<u><b>Offering</b></u>		<b>Attendance</b>	
<i>General Offering</i>	\$7,317.00	<i>Attendance</i>	226
<i>On-Line Giving</i>	2,132.48	<i>Communed</i>	66
<i>Missions</i>	0.00		
<i>Debt Fund</i>	0.00		
<i>Mortgage Offering</i>	0.00		
<i>Lutheran High</i>	0.00		
<i>Bible Study/Sunday School</i>	0.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,449.48</b>		

## OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday</b>	1/2	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		9:15 am	NO Sunday School
		9:15 am	NO Bible Study (school library)
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Monday	1/3	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class @ church
Tuesday	1/4	7:00 am	Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ OC Diner
		6:30 pm	Stephen Ministry Meeting
Wednesday	1/5	9:30 am	Ladies Bible Study
		6:30 pm	All Boards Meeting
Thursday	1/6	6:30 pm	Worship Service
		7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	1/8	8:00 am	Rise & Sonshine Bible Study
<b>Sunday</b>	1/9	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b> (mites collection)
		9:15 am	Sunday School
		9:15 am	Bible Study (school library)
		10:00 am	Willowcrest Worship
		<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship</b> (mites collection)

## 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) <a href="http://thewordendures.blogspot.com">thewordendures.blogspot.com</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	414-762-3655
ECC Director	Mrs. Rachel Miliacca	414-762-8755
Director of Music	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	
Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
Congregation President	Mr. Duane Meyer	414-840-1873
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor	Rev. John Taggatz	<a href="mailto:pastor@graceoakcreek.org">pastor@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Church Office	Sarah Anderson, Secretary	<a href="mailto:church@graceoakcreek.org">church@graceoakcreek.org</a>
Principal	Mr. Steve Gettelman	<a href="mailto:principal@graceoakcreek.org">principal@graceoakcreek.org</a>
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	<a href="mailto:school@graceoakcreek.org">school@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Director	Rachel Miliacca	<a href="mailto:eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org">eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org</a>
ECC Office		<a href="mailto:ecc@graceoakcreek.org">ecc@graceoakcreek.org</a>

### Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

### School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

