

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 1

December 1st, 2022

“By His Grace you are saved through faith”

Ephesians 2:8



Image: “And there appeared to him [Zechariah] an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.” (Luke 1:11-13)

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 your child is using the bathroom during the worship service, we ask that you monitor them so that they are using it in a timely manner. We are glad that you're here!!!

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 *“Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope*

The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt
“And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense” (Luke 1:11). The angel Gabriel appeared to an old priest named Zechariah. He and his wife, Elizabeth, had been childless into their old age. The angel told them that they would have a son named John and that he would prepare the people of God for someone even greater. Terrified, Zechariah doubted Gabriel and was struck dumb. But Elizabeth did conceive a son. And when the baby was born, Zechariah wrote on a tablet that his name should be John, and his speech was restored. The appearance of Gabriel was a clue that God was up to something never before seen in human history: He was sending His Son to redeem the world. Advent gives us time to ponder the mystery of God's plan of redemption—quiet, contemplative time like dumbstruck Zechariah had as he awaited the birth of John. As we await the celebration of Jesus' birth, we listen to the message of hope that God comes even now to save us.

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 the bulletin

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING HYMN “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343 vs. 1-4

Stand

OPENING VERSICLES FOR ADVENT

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Pastor: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

People: **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **Make His paths straight.**

Pastor: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

People: **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

People: **“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**

Pastor: All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

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

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Pastor: God of all creation, You spoke and there was light and the universe began. For the sun, moon, and stars, we give You thanks. For electricity that provides lights in our homes, schools, places of work, and along our streets, we give thanks. Most of all we thank You for Christ, the light of the world, who overcomes all the shadowy places of our lives through His death and resurrection. Illumine our hearts and enlighten our paths according to Your will, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

✧ PSALMODY ✧

HYMN “Hear Us, Father, When We Pray”

LSB 773 vs. 1-4

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Mighty God, You graciously invite us to pray to You as dear children pray to their dear Father. We cry out to You, Lord, trusting in Your never-failing goodness and mercy. Fill our hearts with hope and give us voices to sing Your praises with all the angels; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: To You, O Lord, we lift up our heads to see the King of glory coming. Your angels declared His coming long ago in the age of the prophets. Your angel Gabriel, and a whole heavenly host, rejoiced and sang His glory at His birth. The two angels sitting in the empty tomb declared, “He is risen from the dead.” The apostle John saw a vision with seven angels at Christ’s coming again to wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lift up our heads and our hearts to see and rejoice: The King of glory comes!

People: Amen.

PSALM *Psalms 24:7-10*

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates!

People: And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

People: The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

✠ READINGS ✠

FIRST READING *Isaiah 43:16-21* *(The Lord will make a way.)*

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL READING *Luke 1:5-25* *(The birth of John foretold)*

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak

to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

People: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

People: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

Pastor: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Pastor: He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

People: You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

APOSTLES' CREED

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (LSB 344 vs. 1-5)

SERMON “The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt”
(Luke 1:5-25)

HYMN “My Soul Rejoices”

LSB 933 vs. 1-2

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 web-site at 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.



✠ PRAYER ✠

Stand

PRAYERS

Pastor: As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations, peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households, and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Guide us to hear the voice of God in His Word when we struggle to believe, as did Zechariah. Lift us up by the hope that comes only in Christ and overcome our doubts. Humble us before You, that we may gratefully receive whatever You provide. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ will return and guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past. Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done wrong. Hold our loved ones close to Your heart. Bless the work that we do as we use the talents and gifts You entrust to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord for the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ. And let us rejoice in the fellowship of all the saints, entrusting ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

People:Amen.

Pastor: O God, as You called Zechariah and Elizabeth, so You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

Pastor: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

Pastor: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

People: Amen.

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.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 vs. 1-3

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!

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 ***Altar Flowers*** 

Altar flowers today are given by Sarah Anderson
in celebration of her mom, Joanne Morgan’s birthday.

Holiday Worship Schedule for 2022

On Thursday nights at 6:30pm during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. The theme this year is, “*Angels—The Ultimate Messengers of Hope.*” During Advent this year, we will focus on the messages brought by angels: *to Zechariah, to Joseph, and to Mary.* On Christmas Eve we will hear a multitude of angels singing God’s glory and peace to shepherds. On Christmas Day, we will hear from yet one more angel: “*Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger*” (Luke 2:10–12). Imagine the surprise of the shepherds when the sign of Christ the Lord was not a palace or a crib radiating light beams, or a baby surrounded by a fierce army of guards, the sign was just a baby in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths! As John declares, “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us*” (John 1:14). Even today, the Word comes to us in plain spoken words, in the water with God’s promise of Baptism, and in the bread and wine of Communion. God’s ways are not our ways. He comes in seemingly lowly, simple, and unspectacular ways that we end up discovering are full of His grace and truth. The season of Advent calls to us to stop, look, and listen for the Lord. Here is the order of holiday worship for the coming month, we hope to see you in worship as we receive Christ’s gifts of Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation. Please note, there will be no Thursday night worship service on Thursday December 29th.

Advent Midweek 1

Thursday, December 1st @ 6:30pm

“The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt” (Luke 1:5–25)

Advent Midweek 2

Thursday, December 8th @ 6:30pm

“An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of Fear of the Unknown” (Matthew 1:18–25)

Advent Midweek 3

Thursday, December 15th @ 6:30pm

“The Angel Gabriel Brings a Message of Hope in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible” (Luke 1:26–38)

Advent Midweek 4

Thursday, December 22nd @ 6:30pm

“This Present Sign” (Isaiah 7:10–17)

Christmas Eve:

Saturday, December 24th @ 4:00pm, 5:30pm

“A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope” (Luke 2:13–14)

Christmas Day:

Sunday, December 25th @ 9:30am

“An Angel Brings Hope with a Sign of God’s Presence in the Newly Born Christ Child” (Luke 2:8–11)

NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

New Year’s Day Worship

Sunday, January 1st @ 9:30am

“New Year . . . No Fear!” (Romans 8:31b–39)

Sunday, January 8th @ 8:00am & 10:30am Services - “An Epiphany Moment” (Isaiah 60:1–6)

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	Mrs. 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

