

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2022

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

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



Image: "Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!" (LSB 380:1)

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 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

"A Multitude of the Heavenly Host Announces a Peace Which Brings Renewed Hope"

"All is calm, all is bright." Is it really? We sing those words from the hymn *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* every Christmas Eve. Yet the world in which we live is in so many ways neither calm nor bright. War, violence, shootings, unending anxiety: *these are anything but calm and bright.* Yet we sing. Why? Because the calmness and brightness of which we sing on Christmas Eve comes not from politics or laws or humanity's ability to overcome obstacles; it comes from God. *"Glory to God in the highest,"* sings the multitude of angels to the shepherds, *"and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased"* (Luke 2:14). In Christ, we are given peace beyond human understanding, peace flowing from God to us, peace that comes from God's self-sacrificing love. So filled with hope, we join the angel chorus and sing of the peace found only in Jesus.

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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379 vs. 1-4)

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 2:10-12, 14*

Pastor: To shepherds filled with fear, the angel said,

People: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.”

Pastor: To those shepherds and to us this holy night, the angel declares,

People: “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Pastor: To all who seek signs of God’s peace in this broken world, the angel proclaims,

People: “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Pastor: To our world, so filled with uncertainty, confusion, and fear, the multitude of angels sings,

People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and

lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 2:1-2, 4-6; antiphon: Liturgical Text, read responsively*

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the heavens.

People: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the heavens.

Pastor: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

People: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed.

Pastor: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

People: Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,

Pastor: “As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

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.

Pastor: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the heavens.

People: When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the heavens.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB 368 vs. 1-3)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Mighty God, You sent a multitude of angels to announce the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Fill our voices with this Good News of great joy, that we may join the angels in speaking peace and hope in Jesus to a hurting world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*
(A great light for the people walking in darkness)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a, read responsively*

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given;

People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

Pastor: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE LESSON *Titus 2:11-14*
(We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Away in a Manger” (LSB 364 vs. 1-3)

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

(The birth of Jesus)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “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.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *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 T everlasting. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (LSB 358 vs. 1-3)

SERMON

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (LSB 358 vs. 9-10)

SOLO (4:00pm only)

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.



Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: On this night of wonder and praise, let us pray to our mighty and merciful God for churches to be filled with hope, for the world to find lasting peace, and for ourselves to glorify God in all that we say and do.

Wonderful Counselor, fill Your Church with enduring hope. Uphold missionaries near and far as they speak Your Word in difficult circumstances. In the birth of Christ, help us to catch the vision of Your coming restoration of all creation. God of glory,

People: let Your peace and hope reign.

Pastor: Mighty God, amidst many reminders of how the world You created is broken by sin, establish Your justice and Your righteousness. Guide all who wield power to use it in godly ways to serve others, especially among those most vulnerable. God of glory,

People: let Your peace and hope reign.

Pastor: Everlasting Father, bless us and keep us: in our joys, in our travels, in our sickness, in our dying, and in our grief. Guide all mothers and fathers to seek Your wisdom in raising children. Draw the hearts of young people to Your gracious ways. Accompany older adults through the perils of aging. Fill our homes with godliness, patience, love, joy, generosity, and self-control. God of glory,

People: let Your peace and hope reign.

Pastor: Prince of Peace, for those who have gone before us in faith and now rest eternally in Your embrace, we give thanks. Fill all who mourn with Your peace that surpasses human understanding. God of glory,

People: let Your peace and hope reign.

Pastor: You showed Your goodness and loving kindness, O God, in the birth of our Savior. You saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to Your own mercy. By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom You poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior, You made us heirs according to the hope of eternal life. For all this we thank and adore You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *(The lights in the sanctuary are dimmed)*

*(The light is passed from pastor to the ushers who pass it to the congregation. Do NOT let small children hold candles unattended. For your safety and to prevent wax from dripping, **please do NOT tip the lit candle.** Tip only the unlighted candle. Hold the candles straight up and they will not drip. Blow them out gently. Thank you!!!)*

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

(The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation.)

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another

People: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.

(The candlelight is spread to the rest of the congregation.)

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead, they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER

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

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:10-11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy
People: that will be for all the people.

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David
People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363 vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!!!



**“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.”
HAVE YOU MADE ROOM IN YOUR
HEART FOR HIM?**

“She gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She
...placed Him in a manger, because there
was no room for them in the inn” (Luke
2:7).



2022 Holiday Worship Schedule

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.

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