

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Christmas Day

December 25th, 2022

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



Image: “Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth; Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.” (LSB 367:1)

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

“An Angel Brings Hope with a Sign of God’s Presence in the Newly Born Christ Child”

During Advent this year, we focused on the messages brought by angels: *to Zechariah, to Joseph, and to Mary*. Last evening—Christmas Eve—it was a multitude of angels singing God’s glory and peace to shepherds. Now, on this Christmas Day, we 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 in today’s Gospel, *“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.

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

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367 vs. 1-5)

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

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: Dear Christian friends, take heart! The darkness of your sins will never be able to overcome the light of God’s love for you in Christ Jesus. 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. The One who dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, came to forgive sinners and to set us free to be children of God. The light of Jesus’ forgiveness shines on you today!

People: Amen.

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Joy to the World” (LSB 387 vs. 1-4)

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. God of light, shine hope in our hearts by the sign of Your only-begotten Son, so that our lives may radiate Your love in the darkness of this 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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:7-10*

(The Lord's coming salvation)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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!

GRACE CHOIR

"Have You Heard?"

EPISTLE LESSON *Hebrews 1:1-12*

(The supremacy of God's Son)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,
“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

But of the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your
companions.”

And,
“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE *John 1:14*

Pastor: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia!

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People: and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,

Pastor: full of grace and truth. Alleluia!

People: Alleluia!

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

SERMON HYMN

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (LSB 384 vs. 1-5)

SERMON

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

GRACE CHOIR

“You Are Welcome Here”

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 *John 1:14*

Pastor: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. So let us bring before the God of mercy prayers of thanks, praise, and intercession.

For pastors, teachers, and all workers in the Church, and for all people, that together we shine with the light of Christ's love. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For missionaries near and far, that the grace and truth of Jesus shine through their lives and multiply the kingdom of God throughout the world. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For the leaders of our nation, state, and local community, that they govern justly and faithfully, seeking peace and the well-being of the people they serve. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For those who serve in the military and for anyone far away from home on this joyous day, that the message of the Word made flesh bring them the presence of God in the midst of loneliness. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For those who are sick, dying, or mourning, that the Christmas message bring the light of Christ into all the dark places of our lives. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For all who travel during this season of family gatherings, that they arrive safely at their destinations. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: For our own congregation, that our hearts be filled with hope as we receive the simple signs of God's love for us in Jesus. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: In remembrance of those dear ones who have died, we give thanks. As they were blessed by the grace and truth of the Word of Life and now rejoice in the presence of God, grant that we one day join them with all the choirs of angels singing God's praise for all eternity. In Your great mercy,

People:hear us, Christ our Lord.

Pastor: Hear our prayers, gracious Father, both those we have spoken and those that are too deep for words yet expressed by the Holy Spirit, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. 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

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: Praise, honor, and thanks be to You, God of all creation, for creating the heavens and the earth, angels and human beings, for saving Noah and his family in the flood, for calling Abraham and Sarah, for freeing the Israelites from slavery, and for the prophets who cried both disaster and hope in the wilderness.

People: All thanks be to You, holy God!

Pastor: On this Christmas Day, we thank and praise You for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, for His ministry of restoration and healing, for His suffering and death, and for His resurrection and ascension.

People: All glory and honor, thanks and praise be to You, triune God, forever and ever! Amen!

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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."

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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.

Sit

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. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (LSB 386 vs. 1-4)
A Great and Mighty Wonder (LSB 383 vs. 1-5)

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

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. You give us hope, gracious God, through these signs of Your love and forgiveness that we have received today: Christ's body and blood. Fill our hearts with such hope, that our joy in You overflows in love to those around us; 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.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain (LSB 388 vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!

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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