

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Advent Midweek 3

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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



**Image:** “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus.” (Luke 1:26-27, 30-31)

# 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 the Seemingly Impossible*  
"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). The message brought by Gabriel to Mary seemed impossible. She, a lowly young virgin, had been chosen by the Lord to give birth to the Son of God! "How will this be?" Mary exclaimed. "Nothing will be impossible with God," responded the angel (Luke 1:34, 37). Mary's response has become the primary model for all who would come to believe in Jesus thereafter: "Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). In the moments of our lives when it seems impossible that we could be forgiven and we are without hope, God comes to us with words of forgiveness in Jesus. "Let it be to me according to Your word." When we are struck with grief in the face of death and hope seems distant, God comes to us with words of eternal life in Jesus. "Let it be to me according to Your word." Advent brings hope into the midst of life's most impossible situations.

### **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** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341 vs. 1-5

*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: Let us pray. 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 *Psalm 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.**

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

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

## ✠ READINGS ✠

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 35:1-10*

*(The desert shall rejoice and the ransomed shall return.)*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL READING** *Luke 1:26-38*

*(The birth of Jesus foretold)*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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** “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

*LSB 356 vs. 1-4*

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

**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](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 ✠

### 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, like Mary, to say “let it be to me as you have said,” even in the difficult circumstances of our lives. 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 Mary, 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, 6-7*

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God!!!**

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## 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 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Advent Midweek 4

“This Present Sign” (Isaiah 7:10–17)

Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30pm

### Christmas Eve:

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

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm, 5:30pm

### Christmas Day:

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

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### New Year’s Day Worship

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

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30am

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 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) <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. Tony Mirenda	414-807-7445
Fax:	Church/School ECC	414-762-8869 414-856-9262
Pastor		<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		<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		<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

