

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

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

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Advent Midweek 2

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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



**Image:** “Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham, . . . the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.” (*Matthew 1:1, 16*)

# 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 “*Jesus: The Son of Abraham*”**

As we continue to consider Matthew's genealogical history of Jesus, we focus today on His ancestor Abraham. When He called Abraham, at first it seemed that God was promising only the physical Promised Land. But then the Lord said that Abraham would be the father of many nations, all who would share his faith. And their inheritance is a better land, the heavenly promised land itself. By the grace of God, that gracious promise is ours through our Baptism into Christ, who leads us to that better country. Come quickly, Son of Abraham.

### **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** “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” (LSB 352 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Genesis 12:3; Romans 4:22, 24; John 8:56*

**Pastor:** The Lord promised Abram, “I will bless those who bless you,

**People:** and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**Pastor:** Paul reminds us that Abraham’s faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

**People:** “It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus.”

**Pastor:** Jesus said, “Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day.

**People:** He saw it and was glad.”

### ✘ PSALMODY ✘

**PSALM** *Psalm 105:1-11, 42-45; antiphon: v. 42*

**Pastor:** This psalm rejoices that God kept His promise to give Abraham the land—and that He remembers His everlasting covenants.

He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!

**People:** Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!

**Pastor:** Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

**People:** Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

**Pastor:** Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

**People:** O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

**Pastor:** He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

**People:** He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,

**Pastor:** the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac,

**People:** which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

Pastor: saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

**People: For He remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.**

Pastor: So He brought His people out with joy, His chosen ones with singing.

**People: And He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,**

Pastor: that they might keep His statutes and observe His laws.

**People: Praise the LORD! He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.**

### **GREAT O ANTIPHON**

Pastor: This Great O Antiphon looks beyond earthly kingdoms to eternal salvation. O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

**People: Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.**

### **HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Sts. 1, 7: LSB 357)**

*Sit*

## **✠ READINGS ✠**

### **FIRST READING *Genesis 12:1-7***

Lector: The Lord promises then-Abram that through him all the nations of the world will be blessed. A reading from Genesis, chapter 12.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** *Hebrews 11:8-16*

Lector: People who share the faith of Abraham are only exiles on the earth; we seek a better country. A reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL READING** *John 8:48-59*

Lector: Faithful Abraham rejoiced to see the day when his promised son appeared in human history. A reading from John, chapter 8.

The Jews answered [Jesus], "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' But you have not known him.

I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thank be to God.

### APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

**RESPONSORY** *Based on Genesis 12:7; Hebrews 11:8, 16; John 8:58*

Pastor: To your offspring I will give this land.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Pastor: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Pastor: Before Abraham was, I am.

People: We desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Pastor: More than only celebrating Abraham's faith, this next hymn raises our sights to the better country God promises us by grace.

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN "The God of Abraham Praise" (Sts. 1, 4, 6, 8: LSB 798)**

**SERMON "Jesus: The Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1-2)**

**OFFERTORY HYMN "Sing Praise to the God of Israel" (LSB 936 vs. 1-4)**

### **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.



### **✘ PRAYER ✘**

*Stand*

### **SALUTATION**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

### **COLLECTS**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health,

and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

**People:hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

**People:hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

**People:hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

**People:hear our prayer.**

#### **COLLECT FOR TODAY**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You promised Your ancestor Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

**People:Strengthen the faith we share with him in Your gracious promises. Grant that during our sojourn on this earth we ever look toward the better country You have prepared for us.**

Pastor: Son of Abraham,

**People:hear our prayer.**

#### **COLLECT FROM SUNDAY**

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

**People:that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;**

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.**



## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**People:** 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. 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 you and keep you.

**People:** Amen.

*Sit*

## CLOSING HYMN "Now the Light Has Gone Away" (LSB 887 vs. 1-5)

**Pastor:** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

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



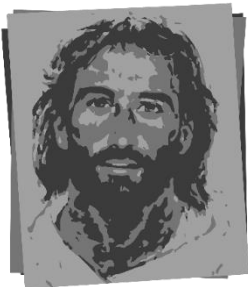
## THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS *Matthew 1:1-16*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.



## Holiday Worship Schedule for 2023

*“Jesus: The Son of David, the Son of  
Abraham”*

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the last Thursday in November and the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. There is great interest in genealogies today. In the past, such interest was usually confined to one dutiful family member who would gather all the information together and begin reconstructing the family tree.

However, genealogy websites have simplified such work so that even the most casual observers are able to explore their family histories and better understand their pasts. The scientific advances of DNA are also allowing people to explore more than just one or two branches of the family tree and also to understand how all the generations of the past have come together in each unique, individual family member. In these weeks of Advent, the sermons will help us unpack the significance of Jesus' genealogy and how God was at work weaving his plan of salvation throughout the history of his chosen people—*as he reveals in the Old Testament all the way through Joseph and Mary*. 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 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 2**— “Jesus: The Son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1–2)

**Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> --Special Trim the Tree Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent—Sunday worship services of 8am and 10:30am...**

**Thursday Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 3**— “Jesus: The Son of Scandal” (Matthew 1:1, 3, 5–6)

**Thursday Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm –Advent Midweek 4**—“Jesus: The Son of Joseph” (Matthew 1:16)

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30am 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent with Communion**

**Sunday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm, 5:30pm–Christmas Eve:** “Jesus: The Son of Mary” (Matthew 1:16)

**Monday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am–Christmas Day:** “Christmas, as John Writes It” (John 1:1–14)

**No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> 9:30am New Year's Eve Worship— Guest Pastor Jim Klug**

**Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 8am & 10:30am Services**— “People Who Don't Belong” (Matthew 2:1–12)

## 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)<br>715-467-1231 (Cell)<br>262-664-4365 (Home)<br><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   |
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