

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 3

December 14th, 2023

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

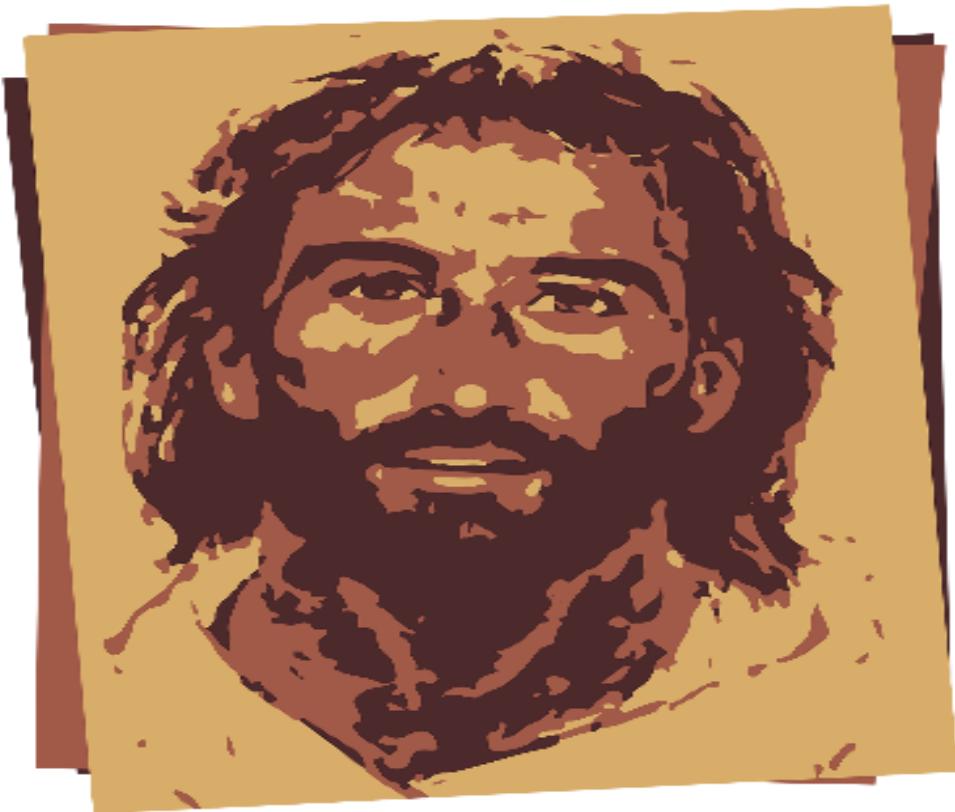


Image: “Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham, . . . the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.” (*Matthew 1:1, 16*)

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 Scandal*”

As we unpack Matthew's genealogical history of Jesus, we find several scandals, for in His family tree are people involved in incest, prostitution, adultery, and murder. But our gracious Lord brought good from the bad, even going to the cross to include us! We are all prodigal children, now joined to the Body of Christ and heirs of heaven only by the grace of God through our Baptism. And so, we pray to the “*Son of scandal,*” come quickly, Lord 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 the bulletin...

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *2 Samuel 12:9, 24; Titus 3:3-5a; Mark 1:11*

Pastor: Although Nathan condemned David, “You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife,”

People: she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.

Pastor: Paul writes that although “we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient,

People: when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us.”

Pastor: When John baptized Jesus, “A voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son;

People: with You I am well pleased.’”

✘ PSALMODY ✘

PSALM *Psalm 71:1-12; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: This psalm, perhaps by David, reflects on a life marked by scandal and conflict.

In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!

Pastor: In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

People: incline Your ear to me, and save me!

Pastor: Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;

People: You have given the command to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress.

Pastor: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

People: from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

Pastor: For You, O Lord, are my hope,

People: my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Pastor: Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;

People: You are He who took me from my mother’s womb.

Pastor: My praise is continually of You.

People: I have been as a portent to many, but You are my strong refuge.

Pastor: My mouth is filled with Your praise,
People: and with Your glory all the day.

Pastor: Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
People: forsake me not when my strength is spent.

Pastor: For my enemies speak concerning me;
People: those who watch for my life consult together

Pastor: and say, "God has forsaken him;
People: pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him."

Pastor: O God, be not far from me;
People: O my God, make haste to help me! In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!

GREAT O ANTIPHON

Pastor: This Great O Antiphon asks God for relief from spiritual darkness. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Sit

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Sts. 1, 6: LSB 357)

✠ READINGS ✠

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 15-18, 24

Lector: Although David had Bathsheba's first husband killed in battle, their son would be the great King Solomon. A reading from Second Samuel, chapter 12.

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

Then Nathan went to his house...

And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm..."

Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Grace Choir "Rejoice"

SECOND READING *Titus 3:3-7*

Lector: In our Baptism, God's grace was "*poured out on us richly.*" A reading from Titus, chapter 3.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

THIRD READING *Mark 1:4-11*

Lector: For all of us in the Body of Christ, the verdict on Him, "*My beloved Son,*" is ours by the grace of God. A reading from Mark, chapter 1.

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am

not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks 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 2 Samuel 12:24; Titus 3:5; Mark 1:8*

Pastor: She bore a son, Solomon.

People: He saved us according to His own mercy.

Pastor: Not because of works done by us,

People: He saved us according to His own mercy.

Pastor: He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

People: He saved us according to His own mercy.

Sit

SERMON HYMN “The Night Will Soon Be Ending” (LSB 337 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “Jesus: The Son of Scandal” (Matthew 1:1, 3, 5-6)

OFFERTORY HYMN “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” (LSB 934 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. 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, the people included in Your family tree dealt with scandalous sin within and around them, and yet from them You graciously entered human history.

People:Help us to see Your grace at work in us, we who have been grafted into Your family tree by Baptism. Strengthen us to truly be Your forgiven and adopted brothers and sisters.

Pastor: Son of scandal,

People:hear our prayer.

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers

People:and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father 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 Rest beneath Night's Shadow" (LSB 880 vs. 1-5)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



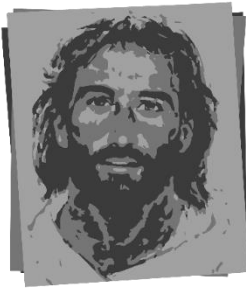
THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS *Matthew 1:1-16*

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 28th.

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

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

Sunday December 24th 9:30am 4th Sunday in Advent with Communion

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

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

No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 28th

Sunday December 31st 9:30am New Year’s Eve Worship— Guest Pastor Jim Klug

Sunday January 7th 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.

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