

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 4

December 21st, 2023

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

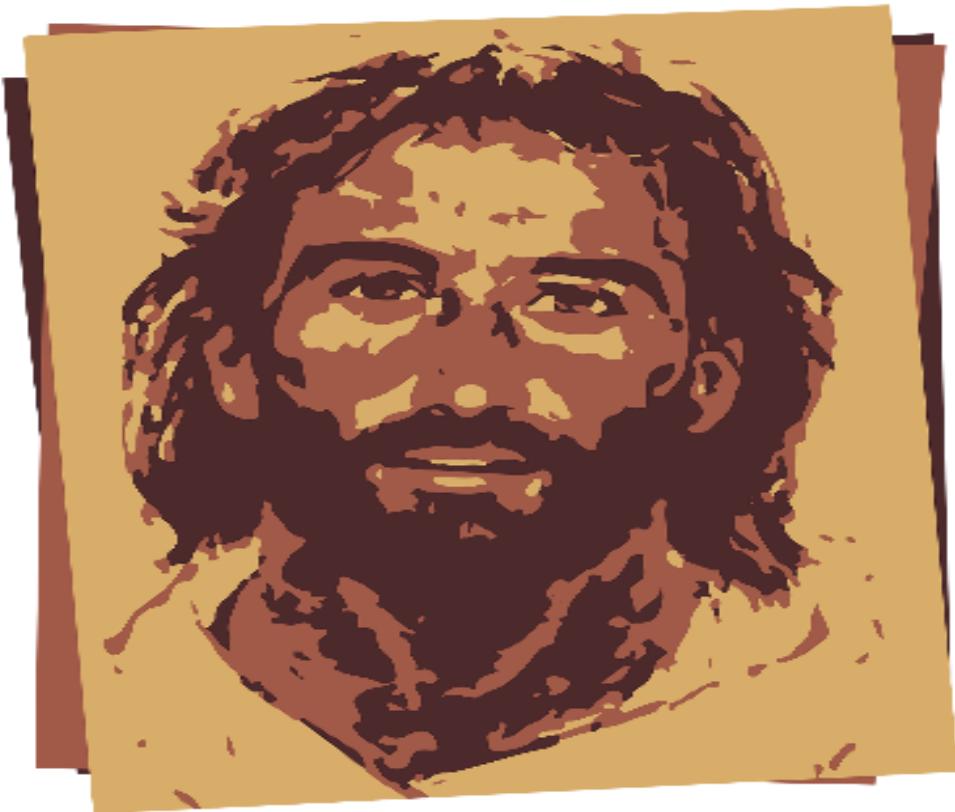


Image: “Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham, . . . the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.” (*Matthew 1:1, 16*)

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 Joseph*”

In Jesus' genealogy, we recognize Joseph, the head of Jesus' earthly family. At the time of Jesus' birth, Joseph was caring, not wanting to shame his fiancée Mary, and he was obedient, naming her son Jesus. Yet Joseph is not mentioned in the Bible after the account of Jesus' getting “*lost*” in the temple when He was twelve years old. But God did not forget Joseph! “*Jesus*” means “*Savior*,” and He is Joseph's Savior, the Savior of all the unknown people in and out of His family tree, and our Savior. God remembers all people, well-known or not, and He has forgiven and forgotten all our sins, their penalty paid by Joseph's “*adopted*” Son. Come quickly, Son of Joseph.

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 “Away in a Manger” (LSB 364 vs. 1-3)

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:27, 31; Matthew 1:20, 25*

Pastor: Jeremiah recorded the Lord’s promise, “I will make a new covenant.

People: I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Pastor: Paul reminds his readers, “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

People: Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Pastor: The angel told Joseph, “Do not fear to take Mary as your wife.”

People: Joseph “called His name Jesus.”

✘ PSALMODY ✘

PSALM *Psalms 25:1-15; antiphon: v. 7b*

Pastor: In this psalm, David asks God to remember him but to forget all his sins.

According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

People: O my God, in You I trust;

Pastor: let me not be put to shame;

People: let not my enemies exult over me.

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

People: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Pastor: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;

People: teach me Your paths.

Pastor: Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

People: for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
People: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Pastor: Good and upright is the LORD;
People: therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

Pastor: He leads the humble in what is right,
People: and teaches the humble His way.

Pastor: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
People: For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Pastor: Who is the man who fears the LORD?
People: Him will He instruct in the way that He should choose.

Pastor: His soul shall abide in well-being,
People: and his offspring shall inherit the land.

Pastor: The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him,
People: and He makes known to them His covenant.

Pastor: My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
People: for He will pluck my feet out of the net. According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

GREAT O ANTIPHON

Pastor: Joseph was prudent, a gift for which we pray in this Great O Antiphon. O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:
People: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Sts. 1-2: LSB 357)

Sit

✘ READINGS ✘

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Lector: God promises that a new covenant will be written on the hearts of even the least of His people. A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 31.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

Lector: Most of those whom God has chosen are weak, lowly, common people. Our boasting, therefore, must be only about our Lord. A reading from First Corinthians, chapter 1.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 1:18-25*

Lector: Although he thought about divorcing Mary quietly, Joseph obeys the angel's command, takes Mary, and names her Son Jesus, God among us to save us from our sins. A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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 T everlasting. Amen.**

RESPONSORY *Based on Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:28; Matthew 1:21*

Pastor: The days are coming when I will make a new covenant.

People: I will remember their sin no more.

Pastor: God chose what is low and despised in the world.

People: I will remember their sin no more.

Pastor: You shall call His name Jesus.

People: I will remember their sin no more.

Sit

SERMON HYMN “Arise, O Christian People” (LSB 354 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “Jesus: The Son of Joseph” (Matthew 1:16)

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.



Sit

✠ PRAYER ✠

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, when You came to save all mankind, You graciously used lowly, imperfect people in Your human family.

People: Use us now, we pray, to spread the news of Your holy birth, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

Pastor: Son of Joseph,

People: hear our prayer.

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

People: that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;

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 “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” (LSB 883 vs. 1-4)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



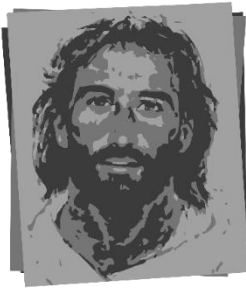
THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS *Matthew 1:1-16*

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. 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.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
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		pastor@graceoakcreek.org
Church Office	Heidi Brunzelle, Secretary	church@graceoakcreek.org
Principal		principal@graceoakcreek.org
School Office	Dena Guziewicz, Admin. Asst.	school@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Director		eccdirector@graceoakcreek.org
ECC Office		ecc@graceoakcreek.org

Church & ECC

3381 E. Puetz Rd.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

School & Church Office Mailing Address

8537 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

