

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2023

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

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God’s Grace*



Image: “Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned Its way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned, To die, to live, and not alone for me, To die, to live, and not alone for me?” (LSB 369:4)

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 Mary”

“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). Our midweek Advent series has looked at the genealogy of Jesus, which Matthew records at the beginning of his Gospel. We have learned the following from Jesus' titles: *the Son of David* ushers in an eternal Kingdom for us, *the Son of Abraham* came that we might inherit the heavenly promised land, the *Son of scandal* graciously invites sinners to His family by Baptism, and the *Son of Joseph* remembers the forgotten people of the world but forgives and forgets their sins. Today, we consider the last name in the list, *Mary*. That she is a young virgin from the Galilean hills speaks volumes. God turns the ways of the world upside down by sending His Son to be born of Mary and to exchange His life for ours. He came to save us all. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord, our newborn Savior and King.

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 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (LSB 379 vs. 1-4)

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

WELCOME

Pastor: When the eternal God decided to enter human history in the person of His Son, He revealed that His plans turn the world’s ways upside down. The Son of royal David, the One who fulfilled the promises to Abraham, the One who welcomes scandal-ridden sinners into His family, the One who remembers common people but forgets their sins, is born as the Son of Mary, laid in a manger, a borrowed feeding trough. Come and adore Him. The Christ Child was born for you!

PROLOGUE *John 1:1-5, 9-14*

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

People: and the Word was God.

Pastor: He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him,

People: and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

Pastor: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness,

People: and the darkness has not overcome it.

Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,

People: yet the world did not know Him.

Pastor: 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,

People: He gave the right to become children of God,

Pastor: who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man,

People: but of God.

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father,

People: full of grace and truth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: We have resisted His governing; we have followed our own desires.

Pastor: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People: We have followed other voices of this world and not always relied on Him. We not only sin—we are sinful human beings. Help us, Lord Jesus. Forgive our sins and be the counselor we trust, the God to whom we go, the eternal source of all we need. Give us the peace we so desperately need.

Pastor: The Child born to us, the Son given to us, is Jesus, the Son of David, reigning forever; Jesus, the Son of Abraham, who has prepared for us the heavenly promised land; Jesus, the Son of scandal, who shows that we are children of God and heirs of heaven; Jesus, the Son of Joseph, in whose eyes every one of us is remembered even as He forgives all our sins; Jesus, the Son of Mary, whose humble birth reveals that God turns the way of the world upside down to exchange His life for ours. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & COLLECT

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Grant us grace to put aside all earthly cares so that we may celebrate His coming among us with holy joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” (Sts. 1, 4: LSB 359)

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High” (LSB 368 vs. 1-3)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

(Light has dawned on those living in spiritual Darkness—a Child is born!)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GREAT O ANTIPHON

Pastor: The Lord comes to save us, as we pray in this Great O Antiphon. O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior:

People: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

EPISTLE LESSON *Titus 3:4-7*

(When our Savior appeared, He saved us according to His own mercy.)

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: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

(Shepherds worship the newborn Savior in a stable.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "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." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *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.

SERMON HYMN "What Child Is This" (LSB 370 vs. 1-3)

SERMON "Jesus: The Son of Mary" (Matthew 1:16)

"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).

OFFERTORY HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (LSB 361 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 website 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

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, ourselves, and all people in their various circumstances.

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.

Pastor: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *(The lights in the sanctuary are dimmed)*

(The light is passed from pastor to the ushers who pass it to the congregation. Do NOT let small children hold candles unattended. For your safety and to prevent wax from dripping, please do NOT tip the lit candle. Tip only the unlighted candle. Hold the candles straight up and they will not drip. Blow them out gently. Thank you!!!)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

(The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation.)

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another

People: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.

(The candlelight is spread to the rest of the congregation.)

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead, they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:10-11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

People: that will be for all the people.

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David

People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363 vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



**“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.”
HAVE YOU MADE ROOM IN YOUR
HEART FOR HIM?**

“She gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She ...placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2023

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

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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Choir Director	Mrs. Kathy Kolb	
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