

# 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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



**Image:** "Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart." *LSB 358:13*

# 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 “*The Song of Elizabeth*”**

A word used in many of the hymns of the Advent and Christmas season is “*glory*.” Both people and angels give glory to God in response to the fulfillment of the promised birth of the Savior. Glory is associated with the presence of God throughout the Scriptures. In Exodus, Moses records, “*The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it*” (Exodus 24:16) and in the Book of Revelation, a vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is shared with these words: “*And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb*” (Revelation 21:23). God has great glory and continues to share it with His people—including us! In his Advent hymn text “*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers,*” Laurentius Laurenti, a noted Danish-German musical educator born in 1660, calls God's people His “*heirs of glory*” who are finally to be gathered “*around the throne of glory*” in God's eternal kingdom (LSB 515:2-3). Filled with hope and expectation, we respond to that Advent call!

### **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** “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (LSB 348 vs. 1-4)

*Stand*

#### **INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 124:8*

**Pastor:** Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**People:** who made heaven and earth.

**Pastor:** In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

**People:** Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

**Pastor:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN** “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (LSB 515 vs. 1-4)

*The lighting of two Advent candles on the Advent wreath occurs during the singing of the hymn.*

#### **OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 108:1-6*

**Pastor:** My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!

**People:** Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

**Pastor:** I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

**People:** For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Pastor: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

**People:** That Your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by Your right hand and answer me!

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, may Your divine glory enlighten us with the brightness of Your coming. Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may grow in true wisdom and may reflect Your glory into our darkened world until that day when, by Your grace, we come to the glorious inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. In Your blessed name we pray.

**People:** Amen.

Pastor: The text of the next hymn, "*When All the World Was Cursed*," was written by Johann Olearius, a German hymn and devotion writer who lived in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Originally written for June 24, the day designated for The Nativity of John the Baptist, it is an appropriate Advent hymn as well. As the son born late in life to Elizabeth and Zechariah, John had a singular calling to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. His message was filled not only with a call to repentance but also, as the hymn reminds us, with "*words of consolation*" that indeed God's plan of salvation was soon to be realized in Jesus, the Savior, to whom John zealously pointed. Celebrating the Advent unfolding of God's gracious plan, together we sing the hymn.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF PRAISE** "When All the World Was Cursed" (*LSB 346 vs. 1-4*)

### **✠ READINGS ✠**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *2 Chronicles 29:25-30*  
(*God's people are joined in joyful worship.*)

And he stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the Lord through his prophets. The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the Lord began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. When the offering was finished, the king and all who were

present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 29*

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

*Women: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.*

*Men: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

*Women: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.*

*Men: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.*

*Women: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

*Men: The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"*

Pastor: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

**People: May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!**

**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.**

**EPISTLE LESSON** *1 Peter 4:7-11*

**(Peter encourages God's people to bring glory to God through their lives.)**

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRACE CHOIR “In the Quiet”**

*Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 1:39-45*  
*(The visitation of Mary to Elizabeth)*

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

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**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*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (*LSB* 338 vs. 1-2)

**SERMON** “The Song of Elizabeth” (*Luke* 1:39-45)

**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*

**THE LITANY** *LSB*, p. 288

Pastor: O Lord,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,  
**People: hear us.**

Pastor: God the Father in heaven,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,  
**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Spare us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

**People: Good Lord, deliver us.**

Pastor: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: We poor sinners implore You

**People: to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor: To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living; To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived; To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for



them; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: we implore You to hear us.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**People: grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: hear us.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy. 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.**

**CLOSING COLLECT**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Inhabit our lives and our dreams so that we may live as Your people in the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**Pastor:** O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

**CLOSING HYMN “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (LSB 345 vs. 1-4)**

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

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



## Holiday Worship Schedule for 2024

### *“The Nativity: Songs of God and Men”*

On Thursday nights @ 6:30pm at Grace during the month of December we will once again be having our Advent Midweek Worship Services. The Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! A Danish hymn from around 1600 calls out to us as the church: “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!” It closes each stanza with an address to our Advent Lord: “Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee” (*LSB* 335). May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond! Please note, due to our special holiday worship there will be no Thursday night worship services on Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm** –Advent Midweek 2 “The Song of Elizabeth” Luke 1:39–45

**Thursday Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm** –Advent Midweek 3 “The Song of Mary” Luke 1:46–56

**Tuesday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4pm, 5:30pm–Christmas Eve** “The Song of the Angels” Luke 2:1–20

**Wednesday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:30am–Christmas Day** “Idols and Lies, Word and Flesh” John 1:1–18

**No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 26<sup>th</sup> & Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Wednesday January 1st New Year’s Day Worship 6:30pm** “Endings and Beginnings” Isaiah 51:4–6

**Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> The Epiphany of our Lord 8am & 10:30am Services** “Soaked and Bloody: Our Lord and You” John 2:1–11

## 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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