

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 3

December 19th, 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 Mary”

The weeks of Advent are a time for faithful listening. For centuries before the coming of Jesus, specially chosen messengers of God brought hope to God's people with words of encouragement. An often-heard prophetic voice is that of Isaiah, who told of the fulfillment of God's promises to His faithful people. In chapter 12 of Isaiah, we hear the prophet exclaim: *“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation”* (12:2). As the season of Advent progresses, we hear more and more voices announcing that God's plan of salvation is being fulfilled. John the Baptist calls out in the wilderness, telling us to repent of our sins as we prepare for the coming of the Savior. With Mary, we hear the message of the angel Gabriel, announcing that God is coming in person and that His coming will be a great blessing to all people. With joyful anticipation, we listen for the message of the coming salvation and respond with songs of praise.

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 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (LSB 334 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 “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” (LSB 350 vs. 1-4)

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8, 13-14*

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People:One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

Pastor: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

People: You have said, "Seek My face." My heart says to You, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty Father, by the advent of whose Son into the world the kingdom of heaven is open to all who believe in Him: grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may believe in Him with our whole heart and so serve Him in our daily lives, that when He comes again we may, together with Mary, our Lord's mother; the prophets of old; and all of the faithful, by Your mercy be gathered together into the Kingdom that abides eternal in the heavens; through Your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns forever, world without end.

People: Amen.

Pastor: This next hymn, "O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild," written in Germany in the seventeenth century, is appropriate for Advent, the season that heralds the coming of Christ. With few words, the text tells the story of salvation: the Word of God become flesh to rescue sinners. He was born of the virgin Mary and carried out His work of reconciliation. His death on the cross has ransomed us, stayed God's righteous anger at sinful mankind, and redeemed the world of which we are part. Filled with joy, we strive to stay "faithful, strong, and true" to Jesus.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE "O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild" (LSB 546 vs. 1-3)

✠ READINGS ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Daniel 7:13-14*

(The rule of the Son of Man)

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 26*

Pastor: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

People: Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

Pastor: For Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in Your faithfulness.

Men: I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

Women: I wash my hands in innocence and go around Your altar, O LORD, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all Your wondrous deeds.

Pastor: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

People: Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.

Pastor: But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.

People: My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the LORD.

**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 *Colossians 3:12-17*

(The Word of Christ dwells in His thankful people.)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" (Sts. 1-3: LSB 386)

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:46-56*
(The Magnificat)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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 “My Soul Rejoices” (LSB 933 vs. 1-2)

SERMON “The Song of Mary” (Luke 1:46-56)

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

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, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace to all the places of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give us the gift of Yourself; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: O Lord, grant us Your grace in this present age to live with kindness, faithfulness, and righteousness as we look for the fullness of Your coming among us in all Your glory and power at the end of the age. In Your mercy, may we come to that eternal inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us through our days until at last we join with saints and angels in endless praise around Your heavenly throne. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 “The Night Will Soon Be Ending” (LSB 337 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 26th and January 2nd.

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

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

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

No Thursday evening worship on Thursday December 26th & Thursday January 2nd

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

Sunday January 5th 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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