

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 1

December 4th, 2025

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



Image: “Favored One,” spake Gabriel, To the maiden Mary, “The true King of Israel, Shall be of your bearing. Nothing is impossible; The Most High declares it!” “As His Word says, let it be; I am but His servant.” (From the closing hymn)



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 "All About Mary: Introducing Mary"

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming. Today we shall remember Mary as God reveals who she is through His Word, not how the world and many churches describe her. And in considering Mary, we look to the One who is the reason the Bible teaches us about Mary—Jesus Christ, her Son and our Lord.

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 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338 vs. 1-2)

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16*

Pastor: The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

People: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Pastor: In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

People: And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

PSALM *Psalms 98:1-4, 8-9; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Pastor: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

People: for He comes to judge the earth.

Pastor: He will judge the world with righteousness,

People: and the peoples with equity.

**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.**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O light beyond all praising, You bring hope into our darkness through the promised arrival of Mary's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Brighten our days and warm our nights, that our work, our worship, and our waiting might be preserved from sin and saturated in holy anticipation for Christ's return; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 33:14-18*

(As a hope to His people, the Lord reiterates His promise to give them an eternal Priest and King.)

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

"For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MAGNIFICAT "My Soul Rejoices" (LSB 933 vs. 1-2)

Stand

GOSPEL READING *Luke 1:26-38*

(Without warning, the Lord's messenger alerts a young maiden that she is part of God's plan of salvation.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name

Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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

SERMON HYMN “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (LSB 356 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “Introducing Mary” (Luke 1:26)

OFFERTORY HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (LSB 341 vs. 5)

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.



Stand

PRAYERS

Pastor: Son of Mary and Son of God, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light. O holy Child of Mary, we pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

People:hear our prayer.

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.

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.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SENTENCES *Luke 1:49, alt.*

Pastor: He who is mighty has done great things for me.

People: Holy is His name.

Pastor: To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

People: Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24-26*

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 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (LSB 374 vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2025

“All About Mary”



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.

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming. **Please note**, due to our special holiday worship there will be no Thursday night worship service on Thursday December 25th, as we will be having worship that morning on Christmas Day.

Holiday Worship Service Schedule

Thursday, December 4 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 1: “Introducing Mary” – Luke 1:26

Sunday, December 7 – 8:00am & 10:30am

Special “Trim the Tree” Service – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 11 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 2: “She Was Betrothed to a Man” – Luke 1:27

Thursday, December 18 – 6:30pm

Advent Midweek 3: “And Mary Sang” – Luke 1:46–55

Wednesday, December 24 – 4:00pm & 5:30pm

Christmas Eve – “The Nativity of Our Lord: She Gave Birth” – Luke 2:7

Thursday, December 25 – 9:30am

Christmas Day – “Became Flesh” – John 1:14

(Note: No Thursday evening worship on December 25th)

Sunday, December 28 – 9:30am only

Worship with Communion – 1st Sunday after Christmas

(Note: One service only this Sunday)

Thursday, January 1 – 6:30pm

New Year’s Day Worship with Communion – “Digging in Dirt, Finding the Name of God” – Numbers 6:22–27

Sunday, January 5 – 8:00am & 10:30am

The Epiphany of Our Lord – “The Singing Camels of Sheba” – Isaiah 6

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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