

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Advent Midweek 2

December 11th, 2025

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



Image: “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.” (Matthew 1:20)



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: She Was Betrothed to a Man"

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope 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 learn more about our Savior, Jesus, by learning about Mary's husband, Joseph. Jesus, true man, was raised and taught by a human father, Joseph, a faithful husband for Mary.

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 “Savior of the Nations, Come” (LSB 332 vs. 1-4, 6)

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 61; antiphon: v. 2*

Pastor: From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.

People: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Pastor: Hear my cry, O God,

People: listen to my prayer.

Pastor: For You have been my refuge,

People: a strong tower against the enemy.

Pastor: Let me dwell in Your tent forever!

People: Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your wings!

Pastor: For You, O God, have heard my vows;

People: You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.

Pastor: Prolong the life of the king;

People: may his years endure to all generations!

Pastor: May he be enthroned forever before God;

People: appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

Pastor: So will I ever sing praises to Your name,

People: as I perform my vows day after day.

**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: From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.

People: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, from the house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother, Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding Your counsel and obeying Your commands; through 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 *Hosea 2:18-23*

(The faithful Lord shows mercy on Israel in an unbreakable vow of righteousness, justice, and steadfast love.)

And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

“And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,
and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,
and I will sow her for myself in the land.
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

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 *Matthew 1:18-25*

(After a visit from the Lord's messenger, Joseph displays his faithfulness to his betrothed and to his God.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

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 “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” (LSB 350 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “She Was Betrothed to a Man” (Luke 1:27)

Sermon Text Luke 1:27— ...to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.

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 David and Son of Joseph, Your arrival fulfills every promise ever made by the Lord, our God. Teach us to know You as the joy of every longing heart, that we might kneel before You, just as Your earthly guardian Joseph knelt beside Your manger, in trust that You hear our prayers and will bring us deliverance. O holy Child of Nazareth, You learned and grew in the house of a carpenter. Build every father within Your great family into an honorable man, sacrificing for the sake of their household and leading them in holiness for the sake of Your name. Particularly bless fathers who have a troubled relationship with their children; heal their hurts and bind them in kindness and love. Son of Joseph,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Incarnate Son of God, You dwelt among sawdust and splinters. Bless all those whose work is difficult and dangerous and take under Your protection all who put their hands to any useful task. Sustain the commerce and industry of this nation. Give all who work the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Son of sweat and toil,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Son of heaven's splendor, You came into our world yet had no place to lay Your head. Mercifully care for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the lonely, the sick, and the troubled of mind and heart. Relieve their want, provide for their livelihood, and make their needs known that Your servants might bring to them the blessings of Your hand. Son of suffering,

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 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.

Pastor	Rev. John M. Taggatz	414-762-8990 (O) 715-467-1231 (Cell) 262-664-4365 (Home) thewordendures.blogspot.com
Principal	Mrs. Lisa Hengst	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, 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



