

# Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin  
[www.graceoakcreek.org](http://www.graceoakcreek.org)

*Celebrate  
Teach  
Share  
God's Grace*

## Advent Midweek 3

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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



**Image:** “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.” (Luke 1:46–48)

# *Advent*

*The Season of Hope and Expectation*



# 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: And Mary Sang"***

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 turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great *Magnificat*, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

### **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 Advent of Our King” (LSB 331 vs. 1-5)

*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** *Psalm 85:1-4, 9-11; antiphon: v. 7*

**Pastor:** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**People:** and grant us Your salvation.

**Pastor:** LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

**People:** You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**Pastor:** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

**People:** You covered all their sin.

**Pastor:** You withdrew all Your wrath;

**People:** You turned from Your hot anger.

**Pastor:** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**People:** and put away Your indignation toward us!

**Pastor:** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

**People:** that glory may dwell in our land.

**Pastor:** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

**People:** righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Pastor:** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

**People:**and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**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:** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**People:**and grant us Your salvation.

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**Amen.

*Sit*

#### **✠ WORD ✠**

#### **FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:1-4, 10-11***

***(The prophet declares the glorious reversal of human fortunes upon the Messiah's advent.)***

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**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 1:39-56*

*(An eruption of joy as John meets Jesus, and Mary bursts into praise)*

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."

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*

**SERMON HYMN** “Hark the Glad Sound” (LSB 349 vs. 1-4)

**SERMON** “And Mary Sang” (Luke 1:46-55)

**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](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.



*Stand*

### **PRAYERS**

Pastor: Son of David and Son of God, You rightfully rule over all things. Our days and deeds belong to You, and we turn to You for guidance, joyfully surrendering our burdens and

submitting to Your gracious will. So just as John celebrated at the sound of Your presence, we, too, rejoice that our Immanuel is with us to hear our prayers and answer us in mercy. O promised Son of Adam, from the beginning, You have held humanity in the hope of evil's ultimate defeat. We pray for all trapped in darkness and in need of rescue. Free hearts held captive by addiction, anxiety, depression, dementia, and mental illness and liberate victims of slavery, human trafficking, ethnic warfare, and global injustice, that the humbled might be exalted by Your mighty hand. Son of deliverance,

**People:**hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Promised Son of Abraham, You remember Your mercy for generations. Make our households places where faith flourishes and where grandparents, parents, children, and neighbors together witness to Your faithfulness. Inspire those preparing for Baptism, confirmation, or ministry for lifelong service in Your name, that generations yet unborn will proclaim Your righteousness. Son of remembrance,

**People:**hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Promised Son of Israel, You led the people of Your keeping through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. Safeguard all who travel during this season. Keep them alert to possible dangers and protect them from distraction. Fill their journeys with joy, then bring them home in safety, until You bring us all to the eternal promised land, prepared by Your death and resurrection. Son of our salvation,

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, as we will be having worship that morning on Christmas Day.

### **Holiday Worship Service Schedule**

#### **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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