

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Christmas Eve

December 24th, 2025

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



Image: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people." (*Titus 2:11*)

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 Gave Birth"

The wait is over. The Child Mary carried, the Savior she pondered, has been born for you and for your salvation. On this holy day, you are welcomed to the manger bed of your Redeemer as heaven touches earth and the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. All through Advent, we have waited with Mary, hearing the promises, bearing the hope, watching for dawn to brighten the horizon. Today, we mirror Mary's joy as the promise is fulfilled. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not—*cannot*—overcome it. Come, let us adore Him—Christ the Lord—born of Mary, cradled in a manger, and given for you.

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 your bulletin

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*LSB* 361 vs. 1-4)

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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 2:10, 14*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

People: we gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.

Pastor: The angel said to the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people.” So, as God’s servant, I say to you, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy.” As a called and ordained servant in Christ’s church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

PSALM (*Psalm 96:1-4a, 6, 9, 11-13a; antiphon: v. 2*)

Pastor: Sing to the LORD, bless His name;

People: tell of His salvation from day to day.

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
People: sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations,
People: His marvelous works among all the peoples!

Pastor: For great is the LORD,
People: and greatly to be praised.

Pastor: Splendor and majesty are before Him;
People: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Pastor: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
People: tremble before Him, all the earth!

Pastor: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
People: let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

Pastor: let the field exult, and everything in it!
People: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes.

**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: Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
People: tell of His salvation from day to day.

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of God, O Light of Light, Your coming brings life and salvation to humanity. Enable us to properly praise You for how You have revealed Yourself, that we still marvel at the mysterious majesty of eternal God made flesh—namely, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (*LSB* 380 vs. 1-3)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:2-7*

(The long-awaited light dawns at last at the coming of David's heir, our Mighty God.)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON *Titus 2:11-14*

(The grace of God in Christ brings salvation for all.)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Once in Royal David's City" (LSB 376 vs. 1-4)

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-20*

(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. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town

of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *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 T everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

SERMON HYMN “A Great and Mighty Wonder” (*LSB* 383 vs. 1-4)

SERMON “She Gave Birth” (Luke 2:7)

OFFERTORY HYMN “What Child Is This” (*LSB* 370 vs. 1-3)

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 website 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: We bow our hearts beside our Lord’s manger, trusting Him to hear our thanks, praise, and petitions: Lord God, our keeper and caretaker, You supply Your people with all that we need. And still, there are those who are sad or sick, who feel lonely or lost, those who are hurt or who have hurt others, and those who find it hard to celebrate during this joyful time of year. Continue, Lord, to care for their needs, and surround them with grace to receive the gifts of Your warmth and love, regardless of their circumstances. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: Coming Lord Jesus, during these days when our joy overflows at Your arrival, we pray for those whose hearts are far from You, those whose faith is failing, those who reject Your truth, those who have neglected their faith, and those who have never heard. By Your Spirit, prepare Your people—each one of us—to be joyful witnesses to Your love and kindness, that more might be able to eagerly anticipate Your coming again. Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord and gracious King, You never fail those whose trust is in You. We give You praise for all the people who have served us over the past year, especially those within our congregation and community. We pause in gratitude to name in our hearts the people who have left a loving mark on our lives this year. [*Pause for silent reflection.*] Lord, in Your mercy,

People:hear our prayer.

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.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *(The lights in the sanctuary are dimmed)*

(The light is passed from pastor to the ushers who pass it to the congregation)

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumines our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory. This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaimed to you: that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

(The candlelight begins to be spread throughout the congregation.)

People: If we say we have fellowship with Him but still walk in darkness, we lie, and do not live according to the truth.

Pastor: But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another

People: And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all our sins.

(The candlelight is spread to the rest of the congregation.)

Pastor: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and then cover its light. Instead, they set the lamp on its stand, set it up high, and it lights everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

BENEDICTION *Luke 2:10-11*

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

People: that will be for all the people.

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David

People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (LSB 363 vs. 1-3)

Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!!!



**“THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND
MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US.”
HAVE YOU MADE ROOM IN YOUR
HEART FOR HIM?**

“She gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She
...placed Him in a manger, because there
was no room for them in the inn” (Luke
2:7).



Holiday Worship Schedule for 2025



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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