

Grace Lutheran Church, School, ECC

Oak Creek, Wisconsin
www.graceoakcreek.org

*Celebrate
Teach
Share
God's Grace*

Christmas Day

December 25th, 2025

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



Image: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (*John 1:14*)

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 “*Became Flesh*”

Years ago, a singer named Joan Osborne sang, “*What if God was one of us?*” We don't have to wonder about the what-if because God *is* one of us. The God who tabernacled with His people is the same Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. He radically downgraded His living quarters from the throne room of heaven to a manger in the backwater town of Bethlehem. Through Jesus, the Word, we can see God's glory and our eternal life, even when life is more grinding than glorious.

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 Come, All Ye Faithful” (*LSB 379 vs. 1-4*)

Stand

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 26:8; 1 Kings 8:27; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14*)

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

People: Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You; how much less this house that I have built!

Pastor: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

People: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (*Isaiah 52:7; John 1:12-13, adapt.*)

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, the Word, to become flesh and dwell among us. We confess we struggle to see His glory when life is difficult or when we are suffering. We look elsewhere for grace and truth instead of focusing on Your eternal Word. We have heard the Good News and struggle to share it. Forgive us, for the sake of You Son, Jesus Christ. Shine the light of Your love on us and dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Pastor: People of God, I have good news for you, “Your God reigns.” In the mercy of our almighty God, Jesus Christ was born to die for you, and for His sake, God forgives you for all of your sins.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Pastor: To all who receive Him, who believe in His name, He gives the right to become children of God, who are born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man but of God.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT (*Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon: Isaiah 9:6*)

Pastor: 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.

People: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Pastor: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. 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; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

People: 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: 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.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, in ages past, You spoke through the prophets. Today You have spoken to us through Your Son, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Tune our ears to Your Word and nourish us with the flesh and blood of Your Son, who is always with us; through the same Jesus Christ, who rules and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

Sit

Grace Choir—“Come Let’s Celebrate”

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 52:7-10*

(The feet of the one who brings good news of peace, happiness, and salvation are beautiful.)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *(Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a)*

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Pastor: Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father,

Pastor: Prince of Peace.

People: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE LESSON *Hebrews 1:1-12*

(God used to speak through prophets; now He speaks to us through Jesus.)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship

him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Grace Choir—“We Bring Glad Tidings”

Stand

VERSE *John 1:14*

Pastor: Alleluia.

People: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:1-18*

(God becomes a human being.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive

him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

SERMON HYMN “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (LSB 367 vs. 1-5)

SERMON “*Became* Flesh” (John 1:14)

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: Holy Lord, almighty God and Father, You laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. You nourish us and all creatures through Your created world. Guide us in being good stewards of Your world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, the world we live in was created through You. In these last days, our Father has spoken to us through You. Give us ears to hear Your voice and willing

hearts and minds to not only receive grace and truth but also live them out in our homes, neighborhoods, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, we thank and praise You for the feet of those who brought us the Good News. We ask for Your blessing on all pastors, parents, grandparents, and servants in Christ's church that they may continue to share the good news of peace and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Great physician and healer, comfort all who are struggling physically, emotionally, or spiritually, [*especially* . . .]. Give them healing and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, we thank You for the gift of family. Knit families together with Your love, mercy, and grace. Give parents and children calm minds and quiet hearts focused on Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Silence for personal prayer.

Pastor: O God, we boldly and confidently lift these prayers to You, trusting in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus

Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 195*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have sent Your Son to be the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us so that whoever believes in His name will have the right to become children of God. Through the Word who became flesh, You have created all things and have spoken grace and truth. Let the Word dwell among us, that faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood we may receive a full measure of Your gifts through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Hear us as we confidently pray in His name the prayer He taught us:

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*)

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *LSB 198*

- C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- "Away in a Manger" (*LSB 365*)
- "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (*LSB 359*)

Distribution

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

Members of our sister LC-MS congregations are invited to join us for communion. Guests to our Lutheran Church are invited to first speak with Pastor before joining at our Lord's Table. We hope you will learn more about us as we gather to "*Celebrate, Teach, and Confess*" the Good News of God's Grace! In the Bible, the Apostle Paul wrote: *Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread, and drink of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)*. Before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am sorry for my sins? (Prov. 28:13; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-9)*

2. *Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death, offers me forgiveness for all my sins? (Romans 5:8; Col. 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 1:7)*
3. *Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present?) (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:24-25)*
4. *Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God pleasing life by the power of the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Rom. 6:12)*

If you are unable to answer yes to these questions, please talk to the pastor before communing, as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritual harmful (1 Cor. 11:27-29). If you can answer yes to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. Adults and children not yet instructed about Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION PRACTICE—We are offering altar/rail communion as our communion practice. While you are at the altar, please let us know if you would like to receive the Common Cup. Individual communion cups are also available to you. You also have the option to kneel or remain standing during altar/rail communion. Gluten Free communion wafers are also available upon request. If it is physically difficult for you to commune at the altar rail, please speak to the Pastor or an elder about receiving communion in your pew.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE “O Lord, We Praise Thee” (*LSB 617 vs. 1-3*)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. In former days, O Lord, You required sacrifices for sin and spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. But in these last days, You have atoned for our sins through the blood of Your Son, through whom You have spoken to us. Lead us to bring good news of happiness and to publish peace and salvation as we lift up our voices and sing for joy; for You reign, one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SENTENCES (*Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:14; Isaiah 52:10*)

Pastor: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

People: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (*LSB 384 vs. 1-4*)

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

Holiday Worship Service Schedule

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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