



Grace

630 N. Monroe St.
Monroe, MI 48162
(734) 242-1401
www.gracelutheranmonroe.org



*Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about
“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”*

*If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **8:00a.m. service** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.*

You can follow the whole service here in this folder as well as on the displays. Some parts of the service will be found in the burgundy “Lutheran Service Book” hymnals in the pew back.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

Today in Worship

- The end of a calendar year and the beginning of a new set of months brings a special opportunity to look at our lives. What has been most memorable in our lives in the past weeks and months? How might our priorities change in the next months? The Readings in today’s service are not often heard because the calendar does not always bring two Sundays after Christmas. Wisdom is waiting to be found by each of us here in this place today as we hear God’s Word and seek His kingdom in this New Year of grace. God’s wisdom is here to bless us each time we gather for worship!
- God’s Grace to you as you partake of Your one and only Savior Jesus this day.

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #362

“O Sing of Christ”

1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.
2. What Adam lost, none could reclaim, And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right God sent His only Son;

He came to us as life and light And our redemption won.

3. He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry But born of God in love.

4. Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name For all eternity!

Invocation & Opening Sentences

Hebrews 8:10-12; Psalm 122:1

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord:

C **I will put My laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.**

P And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

C **For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."**

P I was glad when they said to me,

C **"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"**

Confession & Absolution

P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious and heavenly Father.

C **Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We have transgressed Your Law in many ways, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not always been wise in our thinking and our speaking and our actions. Our motives and thoughts have not always been pure. We deserve Your punishment now and for eternity. O God, in Your**

mercy forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You, through the merits of Jesus, our Lord. Direct all that we do by Your Holy Spirit that in the year now beginning we joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your Commandments as Your redeemed people.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

C Thanks be to God. Amen.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119:97-104

P Oh how I love your law!

C It is my meditation all the day.

P Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

C for it is ever with me.

P I have more understanding than all my teachers,

C for your testimonies are my meditation.

P I understand more than the aged,

C for I keep your precepts.

P I hold back my feet from every evil way,

C in order to keep your word.

P I do not turn aside from your rules,

C for you have taught me.

P How sweet are your words to my taste,

C sweeter than honey to my mouth!

P Through your precepts I get understanding;

C therefore I hate every false way.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Almighty Father, You have shined on us the new Light of Your Word made flesh, who lived among us. Cause us to find in Jesus, this Light, who and what is really important in life, and grant us Your blessing as we follow Him; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

“Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.”

L The Old Testament Reading for the Second Sunday after Christmas is from 1st Kings, chapter three.

⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

"We are gifted with God's spiritual blessings."

L The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians, chapter one.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40-52

"The boy Jesus is found in the temple at Jerusalem."

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature[c] and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

8:00 Service

The Nicene Creed

C 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.

9:15 Service

The Apostles Creed

☩ 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 shall 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.

10:30 Service

Ten Commandments Questioning

Message for Children from God's Word

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #410
"Within the Father's House"

1. Within the Father's house The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly The Lord of life has come.
2. The doctors of the Law Gaze on the wondrous child
And marvel at His gracious words Of wisdom undefiled.
3. Yet not to them is giv'n The mighty truth to know,
To lift the earthly veil that hides Incarnate God below.

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**



The Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Lutheran Service Book p. 197

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 198

Musical notation for the hymn "Agnus Dei". It consists of five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, half, whole) and rests. A square box containing the letter 'G' is positioned under the first note of the first line.

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #359
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

3. This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'ry-where.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.

4. O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #393
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

1. Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, Angels singing, Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

2. Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. God of wisdom and understanding, who sent Your only-begotten Son as the embodiment of Your wisdom for the world, we thank You that amidst this confusing world You provide for us the gift of Your grace for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray that You bless us with the wisdom and knowledge of Christ, so that we may be a blessing in this wisdom-starved world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Closing Prayer

P Let us pray. God of wisdom and understanding, who sent Your only-begotten Son as the embodiment of Your wisdom for the world, we thank You that amidst this confusing world You provide for us the gift of Your grace for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray that You bless us with the wisdom and knowledge of Christ, so that we may be a blessing in this wisdom-starved world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Announcements

Closing Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #387

“Joy to the World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Mid-week Stewardship Thought

Being a Biblical Steward

Do you know the difference between being an institutional steward and a Biblical steward? The institutional steward looks at his church as an institute with a budget and needs to be met and a place where he can be served. Then he tries to "give his share" and "do his part" while complaining if his needs are not met. The Biblical steward, on the other hand, looks at the gifts God has given him. He gives according to the blessings he has received, not to fulfill an obligation. He seeks to discover the gifts God has given him and uses them in whatever way he can in service to fellow believers and others. Usually the steward who is busy using his gifts finds that his own needs are met in the process of helping others.



God has chosen us to be His own. He has made us His children and stewards of the gifts He daily gives us. *"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,"* admonishes the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:1.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to show my gratitude continually for Who You are and all that You do for me each and every day. Use me in Your service. Amen.

Blessings on your journey as a steward!