



Grace

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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 **10:30a.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 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Today in Worship

- Are you prepared for heaven? Admittedly, this is an odd question when we are celebrating Jesus’ birth. Yet, Jesus was born to die to save His people from their sins. As Simeon held the Christ Child, he couldn’t help but say, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word,” while also telling Mary, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed.” That opposition eventually brought about His death on a cross. Yet, Jesus was born to die and rise to life again so that all who believe in Him might live! That is the best Christmas gift ever.
- We give thanks for our young people today who are serving in worshipping and sharing the good news of our Savior born for us. To God be the glory!
- God’s Grace to you as you partake of Your one and only Savior Jesus this day.

Prelude

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #364
“Away in a Manger”

(10:30am – v. 1 Kids only sing)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle, 'til morning is nigh.

3. 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.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8; 130:3, adapt.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.

P Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

Introit Psalm

LSB 387; Psalm 98:1-4; Isaiah 52:10

Congregation sings the verses of "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.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

**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.**

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**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.**

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**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.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song
and sing praises!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

"The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord."

L The Old Testament Reading for the First Sunday after Christmas is from Exodus, chapter 13.

¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

³ Then Moses said to the people ... ¹¹ "When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹² you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

“Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.”

L The Epistle Reading is from Colossians, chapter three.

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

10:30am Service

Children's Presentation

“How Do You Spell Love?”

Verse

Luke 2:30-32

P Alleluia. My eyes have seen Your salvation;

C **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.**

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

“Jesus is brought to the temple.”

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a

pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

8:00 Service

The Apostles Creed

10:30 Service

The Nicene Creed

10:30am Service

Message for Children

“Baab’s Christmas Story”

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #388

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

(10:30am, Kids will accompany refrain with instruments)

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev’ry-where;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. refrain**
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior’s birth. refrain**
- 3. Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. refrain**

Sermon

Offering

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.” – Psalm 111:10

We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. When the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord’s Word this morning.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

- P** O God of our salvation,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

(10:30 a.m. Service on page 11 of the Worship Folder.)

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8:00 a.m. Service

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer

- P** Let us pray. We thank You, our newborn King, for You have given us the bread of Life. Let Your Word dwell within us richly, empowering us to live lives as Your chosen ones—lives lived with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience as we bear with one another in love and forgive others as You forgive us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- 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

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.**



Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should...
... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

Lutheran Service Book p. 208

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

Lutheran Service Book p. 209

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *"Lamb of God"*

Lutheran Service Book p. 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #379

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him Born the king of angels: *refrain*

refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
 Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: *refrain*

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *refrain*

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!

Distribution Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #376
 "Once in Royal David's City"

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;
 And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
5. Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by
 Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
 Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Nunc Dimittis "Song of Simeon"

Lutheran Service Book p. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Thanksgiving & Prayer

P O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

C His steadfast love endures forever.

P Let us pray. We thank You, our newborn King, for You have given us the bread of Life. Let Your Word dwell within us richly, empowering us to live lives as Your chosen ones—lives lived with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience as we bear with one another in love and forgive others as You forgive us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 #374
"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

1. Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the Saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
2. Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
3. Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!