

Take a moment to notice the * at the beginning of various portions of the order of service. The * indicates the place where it is inappropriate to enter or leave the sanctuary because it marks a time of prayer or respect for the Word of the Lord. Please be considerate of others around you by honoring these notations.



In the fullness of time, the Word become flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Until the end of time, His grace is still given to us as He promised it in the Lord’s Supper. As we receive His gift today, we would ask guests who desire to commune to speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service. In joyful obedience to the teaching of Scripture, we practice close communion.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

“The Seed of David Comes to His Temple”

December 31, 2023

AS WE GATHER: A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is. 11:1-5)—the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam. 7:1-16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal. 4:1-7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:22-40). Christ has enlightened us in baptism, giving us to be adopted as sons of God and heirs of eternal life. Receiving the Holy Sacrament of His body and blood, we are prepared to depart this world in peace, for our eyes have seen the salvation of God in Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “From East to West” LSB 385

THE VAJDA HYMN SERVICE

INVOCATION/CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: O God our Father, we admit and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that we have not always said in our hearts “Thy will be done” when we have been faced with decisions in our lives.

People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: We confess that Your love has not reached others through us in every situation, and we admit to being thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, our heavenly Father, as part of Your loving plan for us You have again welcomed us at Your Table. We thank You for the sustenance You have given us through this holy meal. Let Your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into Your kingdom, for Yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Pastor: The Father who made us,
The Son who reached us by His blood,
The Spirit who urges us to run a good race,
Bless and keep you in the one true faith until life everlasting.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice” LSB 390

ORGAN POSTLUDE

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Pastor: It is truly good right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. Above all we bless You that You have called us by name to be Yours and have established a plan for our lives. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your peace and abiding joy, Lord, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all who rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise Your glorious name, singing:

SANCTUS: To be sung. (Melody of LSB 507)
“Holy, holy, holy!” all the saints in glory
Fill your temple with their song
around your golden throne;
“Holy, holy, holy!” with them we adore you;
God in three Persons, all in Christ as one.

LORD’S PRAYER
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

AGNUS DEI: To be sung. (Melody of LSB 702)
Meek, slaughtered Lamb of God, You bore the sinners’ load
To buy our peace:
Now risen and enthroned, With life and glory crowned,
To all the lost and found Please grant your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:
“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born” **LSB 624**
“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” **LSB 375**

forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: We confess that we have not always been defenders of the weak and helpless – advocates of those not yet born and those in the final stages of life.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: We confess that we have not used every opportunity given us to witness to the faith that is ours and have let the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh set the agendas for our lives and actions.
People: Have mercy on us, and forgive us, O Lord.
Pastor: Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and 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.
People: Amen.

KYRIE: To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 348)
Look down in mercy on us, Lord,
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
For your amazing grace.

GLORIA: To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 380)
Angels, sing, and earth, reply: “Glory be to God on high!”
God who flung the stars in space,
God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause,
God the source of nature’s laws,
God of wisdom, power, and love,
God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply: “Glory be to God on high!”

Angels, sing, and earth, reply: "Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall,
Loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove What is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free, Recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply: "Glory be to God on High!"

***COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

Pastor: O God, our Maker and Redeemer,

People: You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation
of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our
human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in
Him who made Himself to be like us; through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CATECHISM REVIEW

CATECHISM RECITATION

Question #29

OLD TESTAMENT:

Isaiah 11:1-5
(The Branch From Jesse)

Pew Bible page 1076

EPISTLE:

Galatians 4:1-7
(Sons of God)

Pew Bible page 1813

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 2:21-40
(Jesus Presented in the Temple)

Pew Bible page 1591

***THE CREED:**

To be sung. (Using the melody of LSB 364)
**Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in you we believe.
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in you.**
**And you, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True Son of the Father, by angels adored.
Redeemer incarnate, you paid for our sins,
And, joined in your rising, our new life begins.**

Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,
On us, as on Christ, you descend from above;
You call us, you cleanse us, you open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, you restore paradise.

SERMON HYMN:

"In His Temple Now Behold Him"

LSB 519

SERMON

OFFERTORY

"Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year"

Chancel Choir

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:**

Response:

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy:

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION:

Pastor: The Father who made us,

The Son who reached us by His blood,

The Spirit who urges us to run a good race,

Bless and keep you in the one true faith until life everlasting.

People:

Amen.

This concludes the service for online viewing

***SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

Members Receive Communion

Visitors May Request a Blessing

PREFACE:

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.**



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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