

# *Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others*

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

31 DECEMBER 2023 | 10:15 AM

### **AS WE GATHER**

How much time do we spend waiting? A study by the Timex corporation revealed that the average American spends thirty-eight hours annually waiting in traffic and thirteen hours each year on the telephone waiting for customer service. Waiting is not always easy, but certain kinds of waiting are truly worthwhile. The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man is “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). And his wait is more than worthwhile. He gets to hold the infant Christ Child and to express his thanks firsthand for the salvation that Jesus will accomplish. The waiting for Simeon was over. God knew the exact right time for His beloved Son to come to earth into this sin-filled world. God had a plan for salvation that was carried out faithfully and completely by Jesus. As we worship, we echo the words of Simeon, thankful that our waiting for Immanuel is over and that we are assured of the salvation brought by Jesus, the one for whom Simeon was waiting so patiently.

### **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING**

### **WELCOME and INVITATION**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **OPENING SONGS**

***Come Let Us Sing***

*Brent Chambers*

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#### ***Intro***

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Come, let us sing for joy.

#### ***Chorus***

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.  
Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;  
Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation

## **Verse 1**

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving  
And extol Him with music and song  
For the Lord, our Lord, is a great God,  
The great King above all gods. **Chorus**

## **Verse 2**

Let us bow before Him in our worship,  
Let us kneel before God, our great King;  
For He is our God and we are His people  
That's why we shout and sing. **Chorus**

## **Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down**

*Dave Doherty*

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Come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord,  
Our God, our Maker.

Come, let us worship and bow down,  
Let us kneel before the Lord,  
Our God, our Maker.

For He is our God,  
And we are the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand,  
Just the sheep of His hand. **(Repeat)**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;*  
**with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

*Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.*

**You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

*My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;*

**my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

*Blessed be the Lord forever!*

**Amen and Amen.**

## INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b*

## REPENTANCE and RESTORATION

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,*

**who made heaven and earth.**

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

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

*A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.*

*Let us confess our sins to God our Father.*

**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.**

*Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our newborn King, and by His authority, I proclaim that all your sins forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*O God, our Maker and Redeemer, 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

*[Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.]*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

*René Hutzell*

**“The LORD Sends Salvation”**

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111 (antiphon: v.1)**

Roy Tedsen

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

**Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who  
delight in them.**

*Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.*

**He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;  
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

*He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His  
covenant forever.*

**He has shown His people the power of His works, in  
giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

*The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are  
trustworthy;*

**they are established forever and ever, to be performed  
with faithfulness and uprightness.**

*He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His  
covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!*

**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those  
who practice it have a good understanding. His praise  
endures forever!**

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.*

**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.**

**EPISTLE READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

René Hutzell

**“Sons and Heirs”**

*After the reading:*

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## ALLELUIA and VERSE

*Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!*

## HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

*Pastor Marty*

*After the reading:*

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise You, O Christ.*

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Jane Goss*

*(Kindergarten – 5th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)*

## SONG OF THE DAY

### ***King of Kings***

*Sophie Conty and Naomi Batya*

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King of kings and Lord of lords,  
Glory, hal - le - lu - jah.  
King of kings and Lord of lords,  
Glory, hal - le - lu - jah.  
Jesus, Prince of Peace,  
Glory, hal - le - lu - jah.  
Jesus Prince of Peace,  
Glory, hal - le - lu - jah. ***(Repeat twice)***

## MESSAGE

**“Waiting For the Other Shoe”**

*Pastor Marty Tyler*

Isaiah 61:11-62:1; Luke 2:38

## THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### **Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.**

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at [www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving](http://www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving), or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, “Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked “I Bring An Offering To The Lord” sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY SONG

### **Your Grace is Enough**

*Matt Maher*

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Great is Your faithfulness, O God;  
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.  
You lead us by still waters into mercy,  
And nothing can keep us apart.

#### **Pre-Chorus**

So, remember Your people,  
Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise, O God.

#### **Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob;  
You use the weak to lead the strong.  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,  
And all Your people sing along.

#### **Pre-Chorus**

So, remember Your people,  
Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise, O God.

#### **Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me. **(Repeat Chorus)**

#### **Pre-Chorus**

Remember Your people,  
Remember Your children,  
Remember Your promise, O God.

## **Chorus 1**

Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough,  
Your grace is enough for me.

## **Chorus 2**

Yeah, Your grace is enough;  
Hea - ven reaches out to us.  
Your grace is enough for me.  
  
God, I sing: Your grace is enough;  
I'm covered in Your love.  
Your grace is enough for me . . . for me.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with "Amen." Derived from a Hebrew verb, amen means "certainty" or "to confirm." As Martin Luther put it, amen means, "Yes, yes, it shall be so." As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our "amens," and confidently invite Him to come.*

*Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Rejoice! The Savior is born!"— Luke 2:11. Then return to their places and remain standing.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(see hymnal inside back cover)*

*Please be seated.*

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**

- New Year, New Bible Studies
- Serving Others: Help with the Azalea Lights

*Please stand.*

## **CLOSING RESPONSE**

*Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.*

**You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

*My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;*

**my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."*

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

*Holy God, mighty Lord, from of old You have displayed Your mercy and sustained us by the protection of Your Law and the light of Your prophets. You have been the strength of Your people against every enemy, and You have kept faith with those who suffered death rather than surrender Your promise. Receive our thanks for all that Christ has done, for His incarnation of the Virgin Mary, His life-giving suffering, His obedient death upon the cross, and His mighty resurrection from the dead. Keep us in this holy faith and fear all our days.*

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING TO DEPART**

*Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.*

**Amen.**

## **HYMN INTRODUCTION**

*Every day in the life of the Church brings opportunities for worship, praise and celebration. We have so many reasons to celebrate, including the presentation of the Savior at the temple as well as the closing of another year of our Lord while we reflect on the continuing blessings experienced by each generation.*

*The last day of the calendar year brings us an opportunity to reflect on the changes in life that have come our way since last January. We have been gladdened at the birth of children and observed passages such as marriages, first jobs, and new homes. God has been a constant presence, blessing the generations with His everlasting love. Using words of faith penned by English hymn writer Sir Isaac Watts as a paraphrase of Psalm 98, we proclaim God's faithfulness in ages past and for years to come.*

## **DEPARTING SONG**

### ***Joy to the World***

LSB 387

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.

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.

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.

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.

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

*Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Joy  
to  
the  
WORLD