



Grace Lutheran Church

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FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

Welcome: We are glad that you are here or are watching our worship service online. May you be blessed through this time of worship. We pray you find today's service a source of encouragement and strength. *Offerings are received at the door as you enter or leave. Please take a moment to complete an attendance registration slip found in the pew rack and return it to the offering plates also.*

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.

For those desiring to receive the sacrament using the common cup (large chalice), it is offered at the 8:00 a.m. service in addition to the individual cups. Those with special dietary needs such as gluten free or alcohol free are encouraged to speak with the pastor.

Lectionary Summary: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,” born of the woman, “to redeem those who were under the law” (Gal. 4:4–5). Therefore, “according to the Law of Moses,” Mary and Joseph “brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord” (Luke 2:22). There He was received and taken up into the arms of Simeon, who was righteous and devout, “waiting for the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). Simeon praised God and blessed the parents by confessing the cross for which this child was appointed. “At that very hour,” old and faithful Anna, who had watched, prayed and worshiped in the temple for so long, came up and “began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38). The Lord causes “righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations” (Is. 61:11). We also “greatly rejoice in the LORD,” because this child has clothed us “with the garments of salvation,” covered us “with the robe of righteousness” and called us “by a new name” (Is. 61:10; 62:2).

ORDER OF WORSHIP
First Sunday After Christmas

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & GREETING TIME

RINGING OF THE BELL

♪ OPENING HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

**1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain***

ref **Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2 Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain***

**4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. *Refrain***

Stand

**Δ5 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the _eternal Three in One. *Refrain***

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

Ⓒ Amen

Ⓟ I will go to the altar of God,

Ⓒ to God my exceeding joy.

Ⓟ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Ⓒ who made heaven and earth.

Ⓟ Let us confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Ⓒ O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your

beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

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.

C Amen.

P 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. Go in ✠ peace.

C Amen.

PSALMODY: Psalm 90:1–12

P Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

P You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

P You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

P For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

C **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

P For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C **The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

P Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?

C **So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

C **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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Isaiah 61:10—62:3*

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

♪O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733 sts. 1-2

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

EPISTLE LESSON *Galatians 4:4–7*

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

♪ O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733 sts. 3–4

- 3** Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4** A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

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Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

- C** Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:22–40*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now 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. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And 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, ²⁸he 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; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And 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 opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And 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, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And 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. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And 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.

Sit

Children's Message

♪ O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LSB 733 sts. 5–6

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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SERMON: "Time"

Pastor Buchhorn

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He

manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

*Those with mobility issues who would prefer to receive the sacrament at the pew are encouraged to remain standing at the conclusion of the Agnus Dei.
Those coming to the altar will be welcomed and dismissed half table by half table.
It is helpful to fill the table from the wall toward the middle on both sides.
Used individual cups can be left in the holes in the altar rail.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

♪ "Thou Who Roll'st the Year Around" (to tune Müde Bin #887)

- 1 Thou who roll'st the year around, Crowned with mercies large and free,
Rich Thy gifts to us abound; Warm our praise shall rise to Thee.
- 2 Kindly to our worship bow While our grateful thanks we tell,
That, sustained by Thee, we now Bid the parting year farewell.
- 3 All its numbered days are sped, All its busy scenes are o'er,
All its joys forever fled, All its sorrows felt no more.

- 4 Mingled with the eternal past, Its remembrance shall decay,
Yet to be revived at last At the solemn Judgment Day.
- 5 All our follies, Lord, forgive; Cleanse us from each guilty stain.
Let Thy grace within us live That we spend not years in vain.
- 6 Then when life's last eve shall come, Happy spirits, may we fly
To our everlasting home, To our Father's house on high!

♪“Across the Sky the Shades of Night”

LSB 899

- 1 Across the sky the shades of night This New Year's Eve are fleeting.
We deck Your altar, Lord, with light, In solemn worship meeting;
And as the year's last hours go by, We raise to You our earnest cry,
Once more Your love entreating.
- 2 Before the cross subdued we bow, To You our prayer addressing,
Recounting all Your mercies now, And all our sins confessing;
Beseeching You this coming year To keep us in Your faith and fear
And crown us with Your blessing.
- 3 We gather up in this brief hour The mem'ry of Your mercies:
Your wondrous goodness, love, and pow'r
Our grateful song rehearses;
For You have been our strength and stay
In many_a dark and dreary day Of sorrow and reverses.
- 4 We now remember, as we pray, Our dear ones in Your caring
Who brightly shine in endless day, Past death and all despairing.
At our life's end, Lord, as Your own,
Bring us with them around Your throne, The joys of heaven sharing.
- 5 Then, gracious God, in years to come, We pray Your hand may guide us,
And, onward through our journey home, Your mercy walk beside us
Until at last our ransomed life Is safe from peril, toil, and strife
When heav'n itself shall hide us.

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♪“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”

LSB 900

- 1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev’ry knee Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.
- 3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, “Jesus shall His people save.”
- 4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.
- 5 Jesus! Only name that’s giv’n Under all the mighty heav’n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

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Stand

♪POST-COMMUNION HYMN: “Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace” LSB 937

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace, Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn, This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world, The Gentiles’ promised light,
God’s glory dwelling in our midst, The joy of Israel.
- 3 With saints of old, with saints to come, To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest Be honor, love, and praise.

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POST COMMUNION COLLECT

- [P]** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Sit

♪ **CLOSING HYMN: “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”**

LSB 390

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.**
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav’n’s fair homes We may reign in gladness.**
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.**
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.**

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NEWS AND NOTES

WE REJOICE with the following members of Grace who are celebrating this week.

BIRTHDAYS: Karen Knudsen, Gerald Poppe, Halzey Ruwe, Brodrick Tiedtke, Dick Nolte, Ridge Broders, Diana Langemeier, Katie Talbott, Daniel Greenwald & David Stuthmann

ANNIVERSARIES: Mike & Mindy Heithold

NURSERY: A nursery room has been created to help parents with young children. The nursery is located in the first room west of the upstairs fellowship hall. Please feel welcome to use the room to quiet your child.

PARENTS OF LITTLE CHILDREN: Books which your children may enjoy are available in book bags located near the doors at the east end of the sanctuary. Please return the books after the worship service. Thank you.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS WERE \$24,260.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS: Join us at 9:15 in the basement as we complete the final session of our short study on Joseph the foster-father of our Lord. Today we focus on the key role of fathers in the spiritual development of their children.

2024 JANUARY – MARCH PORTALS OF PRAYER are located at both entrances of the church. Start 2024 with a daily personal devotion.

LUTHERAN HOUR: "The Exit from Regret" Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. John Nunes](#)
When life becomes an endless roundabout of regret, Christ is your entrance to forgiveness and a new start. Hear the "Lutheran Hour" message on KTCH AM next Sunday at 7:30 am.

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED: It's not too early to reserve your special date to sponsor the Lutheran Hour in 2024. The cost is \$20.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now in your church mailbox. Please do not use 2023 envelopes after January 1, 2024. If you did not get offering envelopes, please call the church office to request them.

CHILDREN'S SERMON NOTE: Music has always been a vital part of Christian worship. In the Old Testament times the book of Psalms served as both a prayer book and hymnal. The Psalms were chanted as part of worship. In the book of Ephesians, we have a picture of the worship life of the church: *"Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 5:19-20). Luther said of music: "He who sings, prays twice." And Luther also said of music, it is: "Next to the Bible, music is the queen of theology." What kind of music do we use in church? The beauty of the traditional worship music and hymnody of the church is that it can appeal to everyone, even if personal taste might be for country, golden oldies, blues, rock, hip-hop or rap. Everyone, regardless of personal likes,

can enjoy Christian hymnody. It is the music of the church. Additionally, Christian hymnody is thoroughly rooted in an objective proclamation of salvation, always focusing our attention upon the mighty acts of God, the teachings of the church, Jesus, the Christian promises, and the resurrection.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PASTORS: Pastor Michael Buchhorn, Senior Pastor

Pastor's phone: 402.385.4148 Email: pastorbuchhorn@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Carl Lilienkamp

ELDER ON DUTY: Mike Heithold (8:00) Jared Heithold (10:30)

ACOLYTES: Trecyn Ocampo & Lucille Ocampo (8:00)

Colston Starzl & Kennedy Junck

READERS: Riley Hlavac (8:00) Riley Hlavac (10:30)

GREETERS: Jerry & Loree Echtenkamp (8:00) Galen & Kathy Wiser (10:30)

FISHERS OF KIDS PRESCHOOL: Teacher – Keila Olson – 402.584.2257

Director – Rhonda Sebade – 402.369.2170

LUTHERAN HOUR SPONSOR: Beverly Hansen in memory of Cyril

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship
TUESDAY	9:00 am.	Circuit Pastors' Conf. @ Grace
	3:30 pm.	Kinship Communion
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am.	Bible Study
	5:00 am.	Bell Choir
	6:30 pm.	Midweek
	7:30 pm.	Elders
THURSDAY	7:00 pm.	Choir
SATURDAY	7:30 am.	Men's Bible Study
	4:00 pm.	Family Communion
NEXT SUNDAY	8:00 am.	Worship
	9:15 am.	Sunday School & Bible Class
	10:30 am.	Worship