

# The Nativity of Our Lord– Christmas Eve



**December 24, 2025**  
**5:00 pm**

# Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, we invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form in the bulletin or at the Welcome Desk to let us know you were worshipping with us today. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor, an usher, or placed in the offering.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Busy Bags for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available at the ushers table in the entry-way, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue! Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at [www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org) and the NALC at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org)!

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## PRELUDE

### **(Linda Hoch - Organ)**

"Away in a Manger" - *arr. David Williams*

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" - *arr. John G. Barr*

### **(Maria Laderman - Flute, Linda Hoch - Piano)**

"Cradle Song (Away in a Manger)" - *arr. Judy Nishimura*

"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" - *Chris Eaton and Amy Grant/arr. Lloyd Larson*

"Silent Night" - *arr. Joel Raney*

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" - *arr. Joshua Parman*

### **(Kids Prelude Selections)**

"Angels We Have Heard on High" - Stella Blankenship (Piano)

"Carol of the Bells" - Emily Odum (Piano)

"Good King Wenceslas" - *arr. Christopher Hoch* (Benny Hoch - Bells, Maggie Hoch and Philip Young - Trumpet, Hannah Laderman - Clarinet, Gabriel Young - Trombone, Emily Odum - Horn, Linda Hoch - Piano)

"Silent Night" - Miguel Arreguin (Vocal Solo)

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" - *arr. Christopher Hoch (Emily Odum, Molly and Jack Young - Horn Trio)*

### **Announcements**

*Please stand and face the baptismal font.*

## **The Entrance Rite**

### **Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness**

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

*(Matthew 28:19b)*

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, that we may celebrate with joy the Christmas feast.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

### **The Invitatory**

A When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**C "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."**

A And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. *(Luke 2:15-16)*

ENTRANCE HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” v. 1 & 4

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## The Liturgy of The Word

### THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)
- C** **And also with you!**

### KYRIE

- D** Lord Jesus, Word made flesh to dwell among us;  
**C** **Have mercy upon us.**
- A** Christ Jesus, Light of the world, shining in darkness;  
**C** **Have mercy upon us.**
- D** Lord Jesus, Son of God, Lamb of God;  
**C** **Have mercy upon us.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*  
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, Savior of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from our slavery to sin and give us a new birth in love, joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-13

Refrain



Let the heav - ens re - joice and the earth be glad.

Psalm Tone



- L <sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup>a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all <sup>1</sup>the whole earth.
- C <sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD and <sup>1</sup> bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from <sup>1</sup> day to day.**
- L <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory a- <sup>1</sup>mong the nations  
and his wonders a- <sup>1</sup>mong all peoples.
- C <sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly <sup>1</sup> to be praised;  
he is more to be feared <sup>1</sup> than all gods. Refrain**
- L <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all <sup>1</sup>  
that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that <sup>1</sup> is therein.
- C <sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD <sup>1</sup> when  
he comes,  
when he comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**
- L <sup>13</sup>He will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peoples <sup>1</sup> with his truth. **Refrain**

## SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-16

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

- L The Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE CANDLE-LIGHTING AND SEQUENCE HYMN: "Silent Night"

*During the hymn the ushers will distribute light from the processional candles.*

*The person taking flame from a candle shall tilt his/her candle toward the lighted candle. Once lighted, hold your candle upright so that the next person may take light from you.*

*(Battery operated candles are available for children.)*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep In heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly Hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

## HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 2:1-20

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

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

<sup>2</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SEQUENCE HYMN

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

*Please extinguish candles and be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TIME

*At this time, children may depart the sanctuary for a special Children's Christmas story "The First Christmas: The Bible's Nativity Story," by N.T. Wright, illustrated by Helena Perez Garcia. They will return after the sermon.*

## SERMON: "O Great Mystery!"


**The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel**

*After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.*

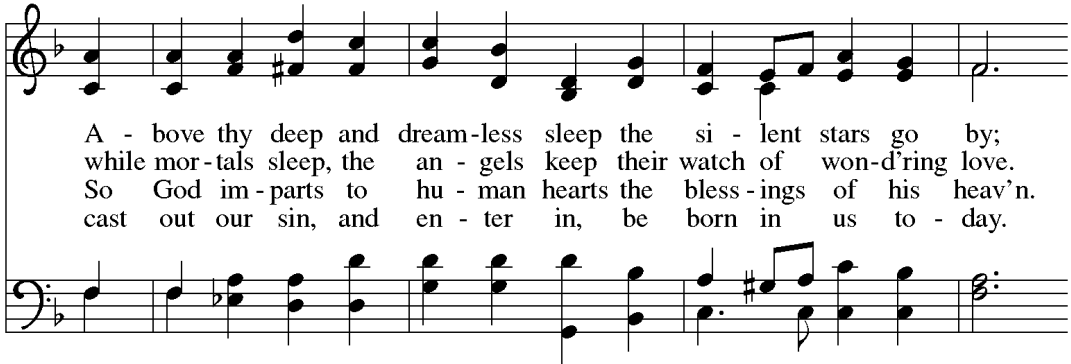
*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## "O Little Town of Bethlehem"



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**A** We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection † of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

A Rejoicing in God's gift of grace, let us pray for the Church,  
the world, and all on whom the Light of Christ shines.

*After each petition:*

A Lord, in your mercy;

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Hear our prayers, gracious God, as we live in the light of  
your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

***You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace,  
and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.***

*Please be seated.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE MEAL

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Martha Crist - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ

"A Festival of Carols" - arr. Bill Galliford

*Please stand as the offering is brought forward.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

"What Feast of Love"



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray...Gracious God,  
**C** **we offer you these humble Christmas gifts of money, bread and wine, signs of your goodness, returned to you. Receive them and bless them, that all people may know the riches of your love in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P** Holy God, source of light and life, at the beginning of time your Word brought light into the world.  
In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary to shine in the darkness and to make us your children.  
For your Word and your Light, we give you thanks, heavenly Father.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying,  
Take and eat; this is my Body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

## 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE FRACTION

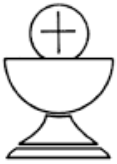
*A time of silence...*

**P** Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (*John 1:29*)

**C** **Blessed are those who are invited to the supper of the Lamb!**  
(*Revelation 19:9*)

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Please be seated.*



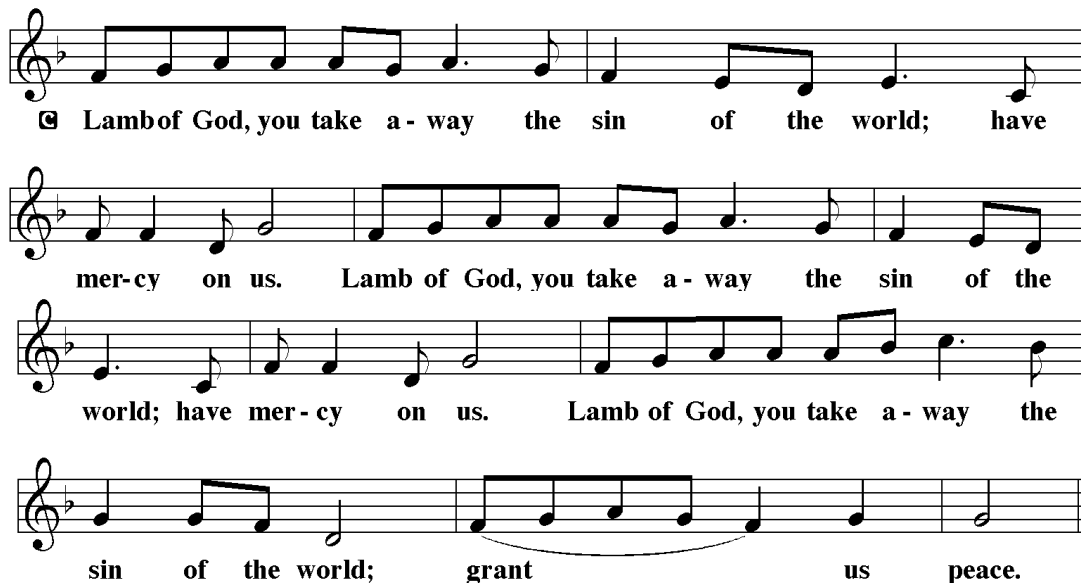
All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine that become our Lord's Body and Blood, are welcome to commune. Children or adults who do not commune are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing!

The Lord's sacramental Blood is available in individual glasses and common cup. As the communion assistants approach, simply indicate which you prefer by a nod of the head or pointing to individual cups or chalice. Grape juice is available in the center ring of each tray. Please place empty individual glasses in the basket provided to either side of the altar area. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who require them. Indicate your preference to the minister administering the hosts.

**Private prayer before receiving Holy Communion:** O merciful Lord, I do not presume to come to your Table, trusting in my own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose will it is always to have mercy. Make me, I pray you, worthy now to receive this Holy Communion. Grant me, gracious Lord, so to consume the very Body and Blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ in this Holy Sacrament, that He may evermore dwell in me, and I in Him, that my sinful body may be made clean by His Body, and my soul washed through His most precious Blood. Amen.

**Private prayer after receiving Holy Communion:** Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.

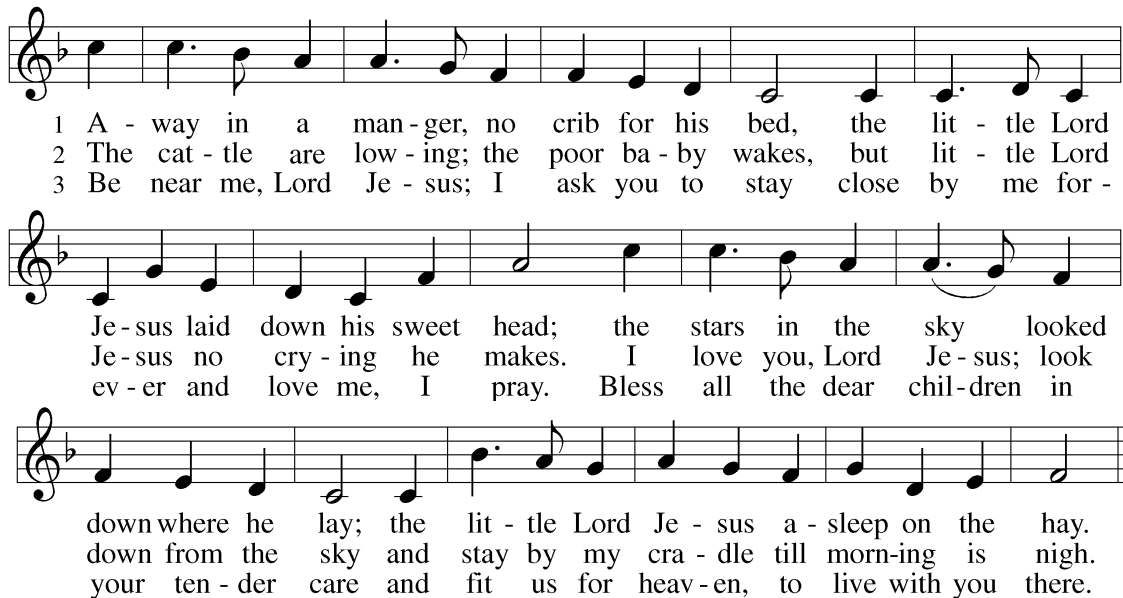
## LAMB OF GOD



**G** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

### "Away In A Manger"



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -  
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked  
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in  
down where he lay; the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

COMMUNION HYMN

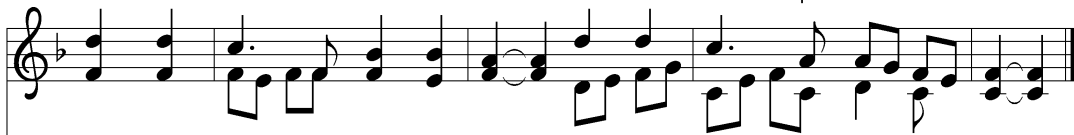
"Once in Royal David's City"



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



## COMMUNION HYMN

**Maria Laderman - Flute, Linda Hoch - Piano**

"What Child Is This" - *arr. Brian Stanley*

"Coventry Carol" - *arr. Joel K. Boyd*

"O Come All Ye Faithful" - *arr. Joshua Parman*

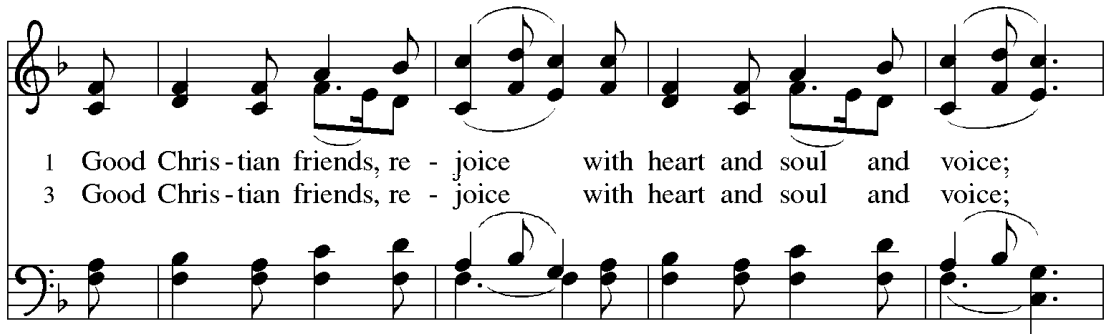
*After all have communed, please stand.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace!

**C** **Amen.**

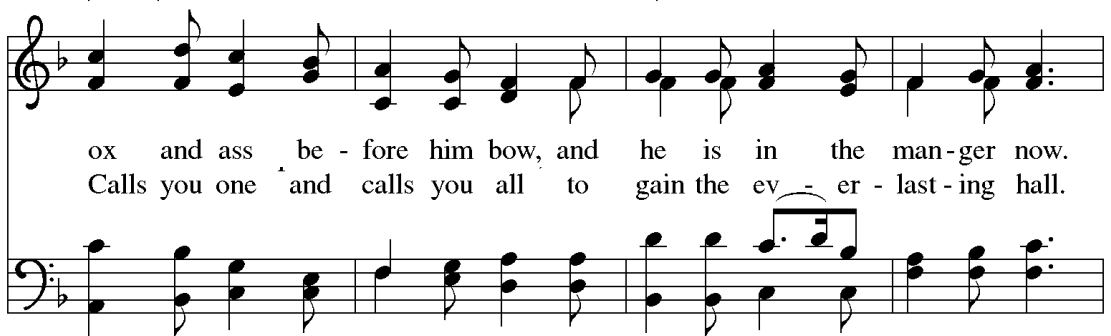
POST COMMUNION HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" v. 1 & 3



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty God, you gave your Son as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Help us to always receive Him with thanksgiving and to follow Him in all our ways; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN "Go, Tell it on the Mountain!"

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,



2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth



3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.



rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.



and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*Refrain*

## THE RITE OF SENDING

- A And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *(Luke 2:20)*
- C **Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!**
- A Go in peace, serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

Linda Hoch - Organ

"Joy to the World" - arr. Kristina Langois

**Offering:** A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for offering. Offerings can be placed in the basket before or after the service.

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**Remember in our prayers...** John Westenhaver, Sue Taylor, Misty Cochenour, Don Melick, Tom Zawodny, Ernestine Dietz, Steve Miller, Betty Milner, Mary Cooney, John Hicks, Amy Seifert Unkefer, Rod Rice, Sue Ross, Mary Ross, Jim Ross, the family of James Newton

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## Notes & News

**WELCOME, GUESTS!** We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the **WELCOME** Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

**Service Recording:** The recorded service will be available at [www.grace43081.org](http://www.grace43081.org)



**NURSERY is closed Dec. 24 and 25.** Questions? Molly King.

**2026 Giving Envelopes and 2026 Flower sign-ups are in the Gathering Space.**

Questions? Debbie Yoho, 614-882-3026 or [finance@grace43081.org](mailto:finance@grace43081.org).



Scan to *Simply Give*

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace's online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

**Financial Update:** If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer's report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Jim Caldwell and it will be emailed to you.

Dear friends in Christ,

The beloved carol, “Away in a Manger” has traditionally been called, “Martin Luther’s Cradle Song,” as it reflects Luther’s great love for the Nativity of our Lord and the meaning of the Incarnation in the hearts and lives of God’s children. The third verse of the hymn is:

*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 fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

As pastor and staff of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, we pray that Jesus may indeed come to us and remain close by each of us in the coming year of God’s grace! May He tenderly care for you and prepare us for heaven that we may live with Him forever!

We wish to express heartfelt appreciation for the generous staff Christmas gift, as we also share sincere gratitude for the love and support we receive throughout the year! It is a joy to serve our Lord in this congregation and look forward to our shared ministry in the coming year!

Christmas blessings,

Linda Hoch  
Sarah Odum

Helen Kang  
Jon Sweet

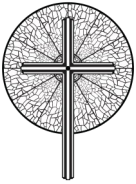
Molly King  
Pastor Wendel

Maria Laderman  
Debbie Yoho



## Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
DEACON	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
ASSISTING MINISTER	Fred Pfanz
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
ACOLYTE	Miguel Arreguin, Emily Odum, Benny Hoch
CANTOR	Fred Pfanz
LECTOR	Sarah Odum
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Regina Place
USHERS	Vanessa Stewart, George Paulus, Randy and Will Stoll
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 2</i>	Julie Hartfelder, Karen Bale, Tami Banks, Carolyn Rearick, Sue Miller, Bonnie Sawyer, Marge Cepek, JoAnn Stemmer
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush, Brice Graves
LITTLE LAMBS	Susan Riches, Amy Quinn



## This Week at Grace: Dec. 24-28, 2025

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Amazing God-- Amazing Grace-- Amazing Worship!

WED.	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 5:00pm <b>Worship Service</b> 8:00pm <b>Worship Service</b>
THURS	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>—Office Closed—</b> 10:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 7:30 pm     AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
FRI.	<b>—Office Closed—</b> 8:00 pm     AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
SAT	9:30 am     AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 8:00 pm     AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Dec. 28	<b>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS-</b> Pr. David Wendel 8:15 am     Worship Service 9:45 am     Adult Learning (Fellowship Hall) 11:00 am    Worship Service

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## GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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<http://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also provides weekly meeting space for five AA groups.

**Vision Statement:** We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.