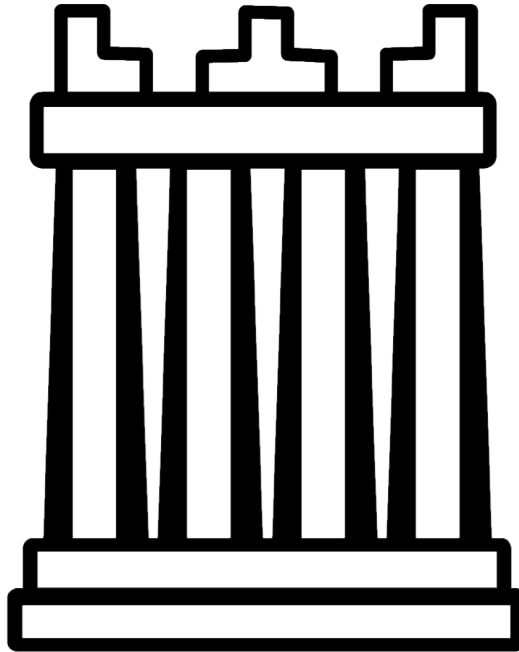


Second Sunday After Christmas



January 4, 2026

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 and the NALC at www.thenalc.org!

PRELUDE

Linda Hoch

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" - arr. John David Peterson

"Once in Royal David's City" - arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Announcements

Please stand and face the baptismal font.

The Entrance Rite

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit
C **and blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

P We hear in Hebrews 4, "Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

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

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.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

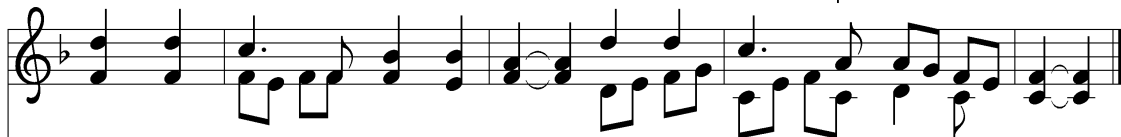
“Once in Royal David’s City”



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.



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

A 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.**

A 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 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled the earth with the light of your incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. By your grace, empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through your Son, 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: 1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as

your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

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

Psalm 119:97-104

Refrain

When your word is o - pened, it gives
 light and un - der - stand - ing.

Psalm Tone

L ⁹⁷Oh, how I love your law!
 All the day long it is in my mind.
 C ⁹⁸**Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies,
 and it is always with me.**
 L ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,
 for your decrees are my study.
 C ¹⁰⁰**I am wiser than the elders,
 because I observe your commandments. Refrain**
 L ¹⁰¹I restrain my feet from every evil way,
 that I may keep your word.
 C ¹⁰²**I do not shrink from your judgments,
 because you yourself have taught me.**
 L ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste!
 They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.
 C ¹⁰⁴**Through your commandments I gain understanding;
 therefore I hate every lying way. Refrain**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in

the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (verses 1-3)

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -

have deem - pect been - er, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:40-52

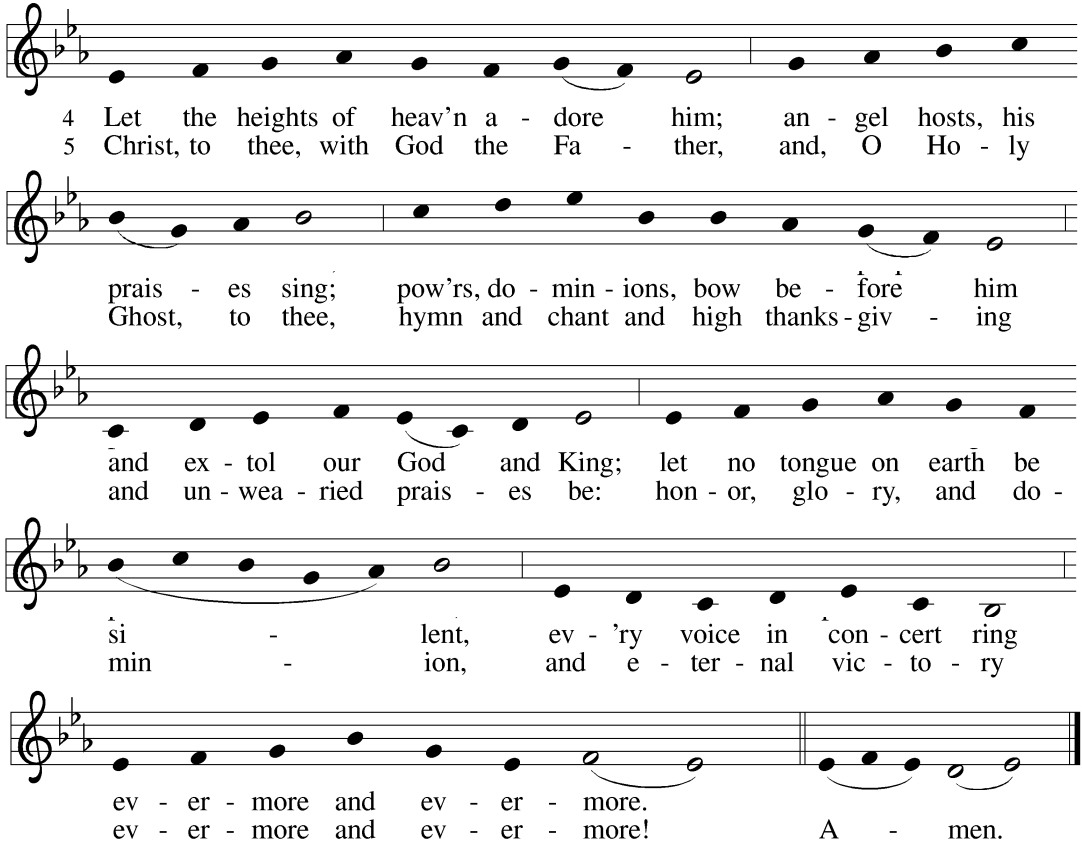
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his

parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."
⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.
⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P The gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (verses 4-5)



4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
 si - min ion, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Molly King

After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

THE NICENE CREED

A We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection † of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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. (*Matthew 5: 22-24; John 20: 19*)

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

MUSICAL OFFERING "Christmas Day (and Night)" - *arr. Judy Nishimura*
Maria Laderman and Anna Crum - Flute Duet, Linda Hoch - Piano

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Child is This” (v. 1 & 3)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?

3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



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 al - so 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 indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save
and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word, inseparable from you.
Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth
as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands
in suffering to free from suffering, those who trust you.
It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his
covenant, and to show forth the resurrection:

P Taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the 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
for the remembrance of me.

P Remembering then, his death and resurrection, we lift this
Bread and Cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made
us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your
priestly people. And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church, that they
may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit, to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

**C Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
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 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.



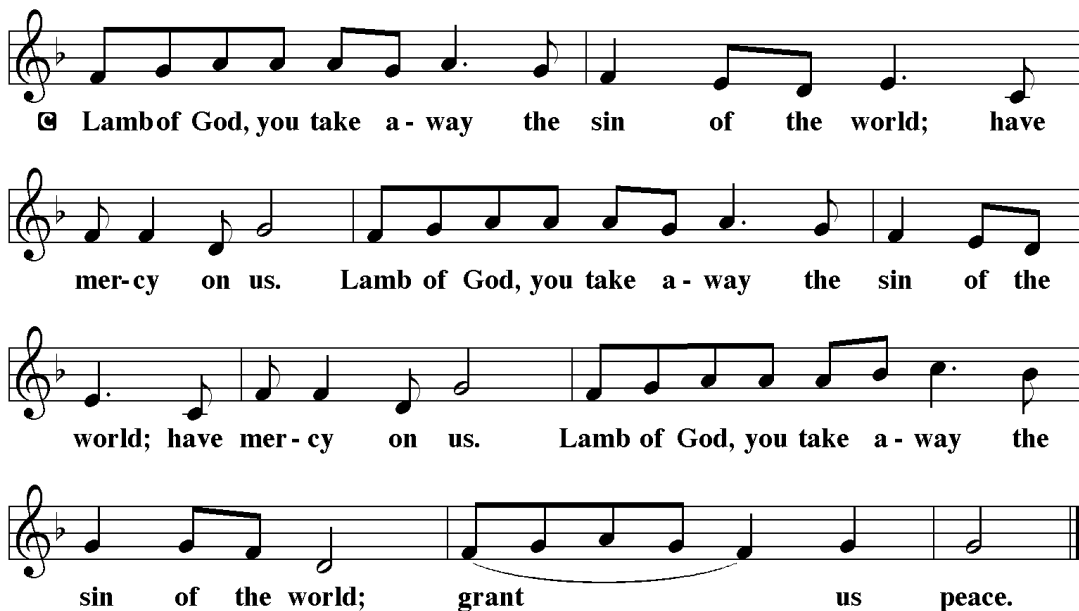
All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine that become our Lord's Body and Blood, are welcome to commune. Children or adults who do not commune are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing!

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



☞ 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

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
 sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Noel Allemande" - *Louis Couperin*

Linda Hoch - Organ

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"

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 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 hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 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.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 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 for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh! To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

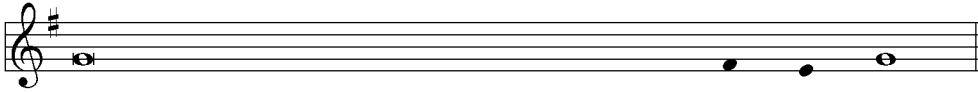
C **Amen.**

SENDING OF OUR CARE TEAM

P Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your Word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound.
May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION



☐ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to 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 Son ✠
and of the Holy Spirit.

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“O Word of God Incarnate”

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

THE RITE OF SENDING

A Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. (*John 8:12*)

C **The light no darkness can overcome!** (*John 1:5*)

A Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Linda Hoch

"I Saw Three Ships" - *arr. Gordon Young*

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

Flowers are given by...

Sarah and David Odum in celebration of our nephew Landon's birthday.

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 Panayoita "Chris" Biernacki.*

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 and place it in the offering or hand it to an usher to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

Please keep Andi and Jon Sweet and family in your prayers, as Andi's mom Panayoita "Chris" Biernacki passed away Wednesday, December 24.

Romans 14: *Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.*



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.

First Sunday After Christmas, December 28: 8:15am: 68; 11:00am: 81; Total: 149

MUSIC NOTES

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – arr. John David Peterson

This Polish carol first surfaced in English hymnody in 1877, but its origins are unknown. Some have presumed it comes from the 13th or 14th centuries. The translation by Edith M. G. Reed (1885-1933) was published in 1925 in *Music and Youth* (also called *Piano Student*) and *Panpipes*. The tune W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY (“In manger lying” or “He lies in a cradle”) is a Polish tune that derives from the rhythm of the mazurka, a Polish country dance in the region of Warsaw. Its origins and date, like those of the text it is linked with, are not known.

“Once in Royal David’s City” – arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), wife of an Anglican bishop, heard some of her godchildren complaining about the dreariness of the Catechism. So, she set to writing hymns (poems) which would explain the various phrases in more interesting style. This is based on the clause in the Creed, “who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary.” Henry J. Gauntlett composed the tune for the text, and it first appeared in his *Christmas Carols* (1849).

“Christmas Night (and Day)” – arr. Judy Nishimura

This arrangement for two flutes combines two Christmas Carols:

“O Holy Night” – It is difficult to realize now that when “O Holy Night” was written by Adolphe Charles Adam, the 19th century French composer who is best known for his ballet *Giselle*, it was frowned on by church authorities. One French bishop even went so far as to denounce it for its “lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion.” Despite this, it has become the most popular of all Christmas solos. Adam’s friend and collaborator, the poet Cappeau de Roquemaure, was the first to supply a text for the melody, titling it “*Cantique de Noël*.” The English words we use today, which made the tune “*O Holy Night*,” were written by an American clergyman and musical authority named John Sullivan Dwight.

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” - This hymn may seem a rather simple carol about the bells of Christmas, but under its surface it represents the quiet embrace of the incarnation against rationalistic forces of the 19th century. Its author, Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig (1783-1872) lived during the Rationalistic period during which orthodox Christianity was at a low ebb. He attended university under rationalistic theologians but later found himself in opposition to the existing system. He is considered the greatest Danish hymnwriter of the 19th century.

“Noel Allemande” – Louis Couperin

Louis Couperin (c. 1626-29 to 1661) was a French Baroque composer and performer. He worked as organist of the Church of St. Gervais in Paris and as musician at the court, and he quickly became one of the most prominent Parisian musicians. He was a noted harpsichordist, organist and violist, but his career was cut short by his early death at the

age of 35. None of his music was published during his lifetime, but manuscript copies of some 200 pieces survive.

“I Saw Three Ships” – arr. Gordon Young

There are several interpretations of the three ships mentioned in this carol. Since the music was published for the first time in 1666, less than two centuries after Columbus' voyages had opened up the seas, some believe that the three ships, like Columbus', were entering a New World – that of the Spirit. Others feel that the number refers to the journeying Wise Men, or to the virtues of faith, hope and charity, or to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, or to the Trinity of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Carols that sing of ships are not unusual, though as Cecil Sharp, a famous collector of folk songs, pointed out, the island-dwelling Britons of early days may have thought that Bethlehem, which they knew about only through hearsay, lay on or near the seacoast of the Holy Land. Sharp discovered the music for this carol existing in similar versions all over the British Isles, sung to these Christmas words and also to a secular lyric, beginning “As I sat on a sunny bank,” which was already well known by the 18th century.

Sweeter Than Honey

Find the 36 **bold** words from Psalm 119:97-104 (ESV)

Y B P E P T V G L Q G J Y T U
Q P S E P E A T V O Y B K A N
O A E Y S S R M A R V Z N U D
Y K K L H T L A O S D E M G E
U B A C K I X S G F T N J H R
X F M R V M R P R E C E P T S
W S A E C O M M A N D M E N T
X I A T D N W C R L M I Y F A
T H S E O I H U R U L E S W N
A Y R E V E T A H X T S D A D
L V O W R S U A A L Y P R L I
A T D S F O O P T X E A O S N
J E E V D S M B W I A H W G G
G Z S H V J P S U H O N E Y C
P I C W S F H E J Q X N T M W

Oh how I **love** your **law**! It is my meditation **all** the **day**.
Your **commandment** makes me **wiser** than my **enemies**,
for it is ever with me. I have **more understanding** than all
my **teachers**, for your **testimonies** are my meditation. I
understand more than the **aged**, for I **keep** your **precepts**.
I **hold back** my **feet** from **every evil way**, in order to keep
your **word**. I do not **turn aside** from your **rules**, for you have
taught me. How **sweet** are your **words** to my **taste**, **sweeter**
than **honey** to my **mouth**! Through your precepts I get
understanding; therefore I **hate** every **false way**.

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Serving Today

OFFICIATING	The Rev. Dr. David Wendel
PREACHER/ COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTER	Molly King
ASSISTING MINISTER	8:15 Jim Caldwell 11:00 Andrea Bush
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Dr. Helen Kang
BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR	Maria Laderman
CANTOR	Peggy Jones
ACOLYTE	8:15 Maddie Nickoli 11:00 Miguel Arreguin
LECTOR	8:15 Dorothy Crain 11:00 Chris Troutman
CARE TEAM	Joanne Figge, Susan Miller, Janet Breen, Tami Stone, Coleen Wooster, Vanessa Stewart, Cindy Odum, Christine Troutman, Sue Monroe, Margery Zimmermann, Paul Whitacre, Peggy Jones, Marge Cepek, Eloise Collier, Donna Dettmann, Shirley Hodek, Charlotte Schaller, Bill Kulju
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	8:15 Lisa Kuhar, Bill Kulju 11:00 Heather Bush, Tami Stone
USHERS	8:15 Lisa Kuhar, Kathy Haegele, Vanessa Stewart 11:00 Joe Moleno, Merl Breen, Dick Jones, Brice Graves
GREETERS	8:15 Shirley Hodek 11:00 Denise Reynard
LITTLE LAMBS	8:15 Julie Young 11:00 Amy Quinn
NURSERY ATTENDANTS	Kaitlyn F., Donna P.
ALTAR GUILD	Team 2: Julie Hartfelder, Karen Bale, Tami Banks, Carolyn Rearick, Sue Miller, Bonnie Sawyer, Marge Cepek, JoAnn Stemmer
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Eric Bush, Dan George, Paul Grant, Brice Graves

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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.