



The King Shall Come

**HE IS BRINGING
PERFECT JOY**



WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

Rev. Mark R. Jacobson x321
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Principal Joel D. Walker x302
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Church Secretary
secretary@graceglendale.org

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Bruce Rademacher / Eoghan Hill
10:30 AM – Todd Rovey / Owen Jacobson / Scott Gillespie

Organist: Jeff Wegner

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Christian Ryan / Jon Scheel
10:30 AM – Eleora Fredrich

Hymn: 318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,
all you children of the day.”

See, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all, to be forgiv’n;

So, when next he comes in glory
and the world is wrapped in fear,
he will shield us with his mercy
and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion
to the Father and the Son
with the everlasting Spirit
while eternal ages run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.

Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Absolution

CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Last Sunday the Candle of Peace was lit. We light the Candle of Peace and the Candle of Hope again today as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

(The candles of Hope and Peace are lit.)

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus has been born told them: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people – Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

(The candle of Joy is lit.)

Hymn: We Lift the Light of Hope

sung to the tune of CW 512

We lift the light of joy, O God.
Your praise is our delight!
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.
Your blessings flow that all may know
Unbounded joy in Christ.

Text: Ken Bible

Text: © 2005 LNW Hymns, admin. LNW Hymns. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day: Advent 3

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–3, 10–11

The coming of the Messiah gives us reasons to rejoice.

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up

and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Men's Chorus (8:00)
Adult Choir (10:30)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
"Mary, Did You Know?"

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Practical pictures of what a life of joy looks like.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.

²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

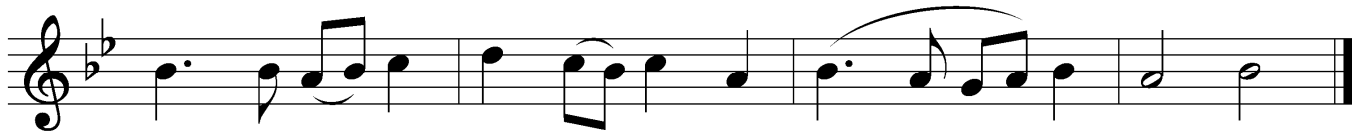
(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10

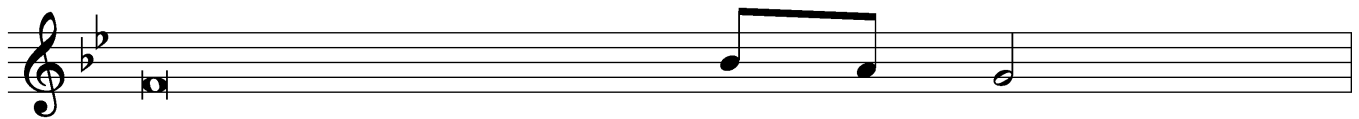


Refrain



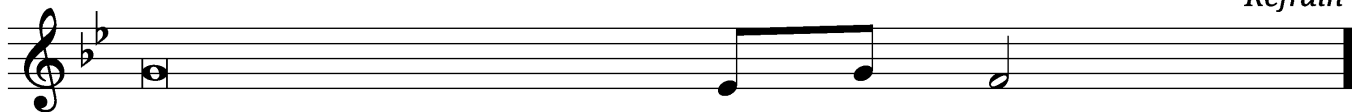
Al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



I will send my messenger a - head of you,

Refrain



who will prepare your way before you.

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

You are witnesses of the joy you have in Jesus.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: 310 Arise, O Christian People

Arise, O Christian people!

Prepare yourselves today;
prepare to greet the Savior,
who takes your sins away.

To us by grace alone
the truth and light were given;
the promised Lord from heaven
to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him,
prepare for him the best;
cast out what would offend him,
this great, this heav’nly guest.

Make straight, make plain the way:
the lowly valleys raising,
the heights of pride abasing,
his path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
beneath his feet in terror
the haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
that heeds God's invitation
and makes true preparation—
it is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
turn not from me aside,
and help me to receive you
this blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low
come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly
and forth your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

John 1:6–8, 19–28

THERE IS JOY IN WITNESSING

- 1. Don't have a Messiah complex.*
- 2. Do say something about Jesus.*

(Please stand)

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian 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.

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have

revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Special Intercessions

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offerings of Love to Our Lord

Please fill out the “Welcome to Grace” register in your pew at this time!

Remember to mark if you are communing.

(Please stand)

Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and

everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your

promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

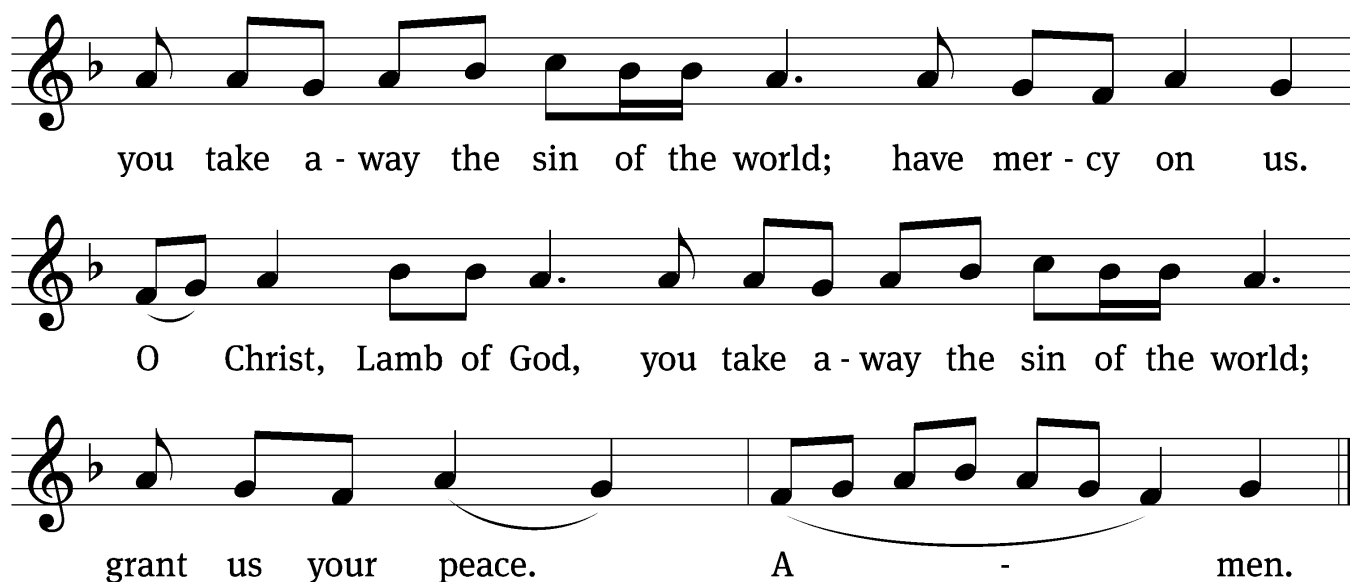
O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



(Please be seated)

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 331 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

“From heav’n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev’ry home;
glad tidings of great joy I bring,
whereof I now will say and sing:

“To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this little child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be
from all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow
prepared by God for all below,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.

“These are the signs which you shall mark:
the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
by whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done
in sending us his own dear Son.

Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery,
that you might share your joy with me.

Ah, Lord, though you created all,
how weak you are, so poor and small,
that you should choose to lay your head
where lowly cattle lately fed!

Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
it would be far too poor and small
a cradle for the Lord of all.

Instead of soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king, so rich and great,
to be enthroned in royal state.

And so it pleases you to see
this simple truth revealed to me:
that worldly honor, wealth, and might
are weak and worthless in your sight.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
within my heart, made clean and new,
a quiet chamber kept for you.

My heart for very joy must leap;
my lips no more can silence keep.
I too must sing with joyful tongue
that sweetest ancient cradle song:

Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us his Son has giv'n,
while angels sing with pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

Hymn: 320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord

As angels joyed with one accord
upon the advent of our Lord,
so let us gladly praise the name
of him who from the Father came.

He came, not clothed in majesty
nor pow'r that suits his deity.
In lowly state he walked till he
in dying set us captives free.

This done, he soared to God's right hand,
yet orphaned not his chosen band,
for he, not bound in grace and pow'r,
attends his own each day and hour.

In ev'ry age—let praise abound—
he comes; we hear his voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease
to bring us comfort, joy, and peace.

He comes in water to the child
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
and shows the Father's kindly face.

He comes to us in bread and wine
to give himself and gifts divine.
O praise him for this sacrament,
redeeming love's great testament!

Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, *abr., alt.*

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ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Worship: 8:00 AM – 153 10:30 AM – 129
Celebration: 154
Sunday School: Adults: 70
Midweek Bible Class: Tue: 12 – Wed: 8 – Fri: 14

HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Janet Brussman – 8786 W Berridge Ln, Glendale, AZ 85305 (Home)
Dixie Carpenter – White Dove Asst Living, 6741 W Robert E Lee St, Glendale, AZ 85308-8075
Sandra Lederer – Goldwater Asst. Living, 24215 N 55th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85310
Aaron Nielson – Banner Boswell, 10401 W Thunderbird Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. *Forward in Christ* and December Bible-reading and activity calendars are in the Narthex and south entrance to the church.
2. Thank you to the crew that cleaned the church last week. The cleaning crew for December 23rd will be captained by Alan Borchardt, with Michael and Sharon Bellis, Kristy Grippo, Gigi Ong, Rodney and Donna Rademacher, Nicole Rademacher, and Michelle Richardson.

2024 SCRIPTURAL WALL CALENDARS... are available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall before Bible Class for \$9.00 each. The proceeds support the Grace Ladies' Aid.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS... Please sign up for altar flower donations by filling out the Altar Flower binder in the narthex. Altar bouquets cost \$35 each. Enclose payment in a pink envelope (checks payable to Grace Ladies Aid) and place it in the collection plate.

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTMAS & GREETING CARDS... are available for purchase before Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. Cards are \$6.00 per box or \$1.00 per card. Proceeds support the ministry of Grace Ladies' Aid.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE...

TODAY - COMMUNION WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Bible Class, 9:30 AM

Children's Christmas Practice, 9:30 AM

TUE - Church Council, 6:30 PM

WED - ABC: Adult Breakfast & Coffee, 8:30 AM

THUR - **Children's Christmas Service, 6:30 PM**

FRI - **LES Early Release, 11:30 AM**

SUN - **WORSHIP, 9:00 AM (One Service)**

NO Bible Class & Sunday School

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP...

ABC... Adult Breakfast and Coffee Group will meet this Wednesday, December 20, 8:30 AM at Brothers Restaurant, 8466 W Peoria Ave. For more information, please text Pat Walker at 480-717-0131 or email him at patwalker1950@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

THE Christmas GIFT
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE 2023

DECEMBER 21
AT 6:30 PM



PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS OF
GRACE LUTHERAN
SCHOOL & PRESCHOOL

SINGLE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY MORNING... Next Sunday there will only be a single service at 9:00 AM. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School to follow.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Need amounts are based on an offerings goal of **\$947,436.00 by 6/30/2024.**

Week ending 12/20/2023:

Weekly Need:	17,000.00
Weekly Actual:	12,670.60
Weekly +/-:	-4,329.40

YTD 7/1/2023 through 12/10/2023:

YTD Need:	418,000.00
YTD Actual:	406,008.62
YTD +/-:	-11,991.38

ACSTO TAX CREDIT... Don't forget you can still donate to the Arizona Christian Schools Tuition Organization (ACSTO) and get a tax credit on this year's state taxes. We have some students that for various reasons are unable to take advantage of ESA, so receiving assistance from the ACSTO Funding will be a very welcome gift. Donation Forms are available in the Narthex, or you can email Monica at massaker@graceglendale.org or call her at 623-937-2010 ext 326 for more information.

DONATE FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE...

Scan this image using your phone's QR code reader! Contact Debbie at ext. 322 if you have any questions or need help with setting this up. Automatic or one-time deductions for offerings may also be accessed from the graceglendale.org site with the "Click Here to Donate Online" button. A phone app is also available for donations: install Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement and search Organizations for Grace Ev Lutheran Church. *Please use checking or savings account information rather than a credit or debit card to save the processing fees.*



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