



The King Shall Come

**JUST AS GOD
PROMISED**



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.

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AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Senior ushers: Bruce Rademacher
Organist: Rachel Kulhanek
A/V Team: Christian Ryan / Jon Scheel

Hymn: 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,
“most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

“I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

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 we lit the candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

(The Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy are lit.)

The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of Love. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. It is sometimes called the Angel candle because the angel announced that God in love was sending his Son to be our Savior.

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human flesh. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

(The Candle of Love is lit.)

Hymn: We Lift the Light of Hope

st. 4

We lift the light of love, O God,
Your candle in our night.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of 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

Let us pray.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(Please be seated)

This prophecy of love was intermediately fulfilled by Solomon and ultimately fulfilled by Jesus.

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25–27

Romans 16:25–27

The gospel of love is extended to all people, the Jews and the Gentiles.

²⁵Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation: Gospel Acclamation - Setting 4 *Matthew*

1:23

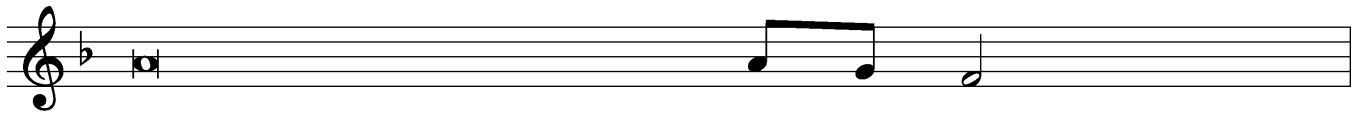


Refrain



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

Tone



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,



and they will call him Im - man - u - el.

Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.
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Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

Luke 1:26–38

The promise of the King come to Mary and Mary responds with faith.

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was

said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: 327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Root of Jesse, free
your own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict’ry o’er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav’nly home;

make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 1:26-28

YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD

Called – Gathered – Enlightened – Sanctified

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

(Please be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you

continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special Intercessions

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Hymn: 557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

sts. 1–5

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
with exultation springing,
and, with united heart and voice
and holy rapture singing,
proclaim the wonders God has done,
how his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;
death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day;
in sin my mother bore me.
Yet deep and deeper still I fell;
life had become a living hell,
so firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works availed me naught,
no merit they attaining;
my will against God's judgment fought,
no hope for me remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
left only death to be my share
and hell to be my sentence.

But God beheld my wretched state
before the world's foundation,
and, mindful of his mercies great,
he planned for my salvation.
A father's heart he turned to me,
sought my redemption fervently;
he gave his dearest treasure.

He spoke to his beloved Son:
"It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of my crown,
and bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
slay bitter death for them that they
may live with you forever."

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

Prayer

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.

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.

Hymn: 557 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

sts. 6–10

The Son obeyed his Father's will,
was born of virgin mother,
and, God's good pleasure to fulfill,
he came to be my brother.

No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore;
a servant's form like mine he bore
to lead the devil captive.

To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me,
I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I myself will be;
for you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, your friend divine,
and evermore you shall be mine;
the foe shall not divide us.

"The foe will shed my precious blood,
me of my life bereaving;
all this I suffer for your good;
be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win;
my innocence shall bear your sin,
and you are blest forever.

“Now to my Father I depart,
the Holy Spirit sending
and, heav’nly wisdom to impart,
my help to you extending.
He will a source of comfort be,
teach you to know and follow me,
and in all truth will guide you.

“What I on earth have lived and taught
be all your life and teaching;
so shall my kingdom’s work be wrought
and honored in your preaching.
Take care that no one’s man-made laws
should e’er destroy the gospel’s cause;
this final word I leave you.”

Text: tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.; Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text: Public domain

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ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Worship: 8:00 AM – 116 10:30 AM – 194

Communion: 8:00 AM – 110 10:30 AM – 132

Sunday School: Adults: 88

Children’s Christmas: 471

LAST SUNDAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ...were donated by Jerry and Dianna Rovey in observance of their 46th wedding anniversary; and by Tom and Megan Sullivan in celebration of Missy's birthday.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS ...were donated by Joan Allen in memory of her son, James; and by Brenda Hepper for memories and blessings.

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

Aaron Nielsen – 8228 W State Ave, Glendale, AZ 85303 (Home)

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS,,, Sandra Lederer was called home to her eternal glory, on Friday, December 22. Her memorial service is pending, but likely to be after the New Year. Blessed are those who die in the Lord.

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 9th will be captained by Jon and Sarah Floerke with Brayden Floerke, Acacia Floerke, Greg and Claudia McDunn, Jake and Merida Oliphant, Makenzie Oliphant, and Andrew Oliphant.

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.

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.

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

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

Week ending 12/17/2023:

YTD 7/1/2023 through 12/17/2023:

Weekly Need:	17,000.00
Weekly Actual:	29,279.30
Weekly +/-:	+12,279.30

YTD Need:	435,000.00
YTD Actual:	435,287.92
YTD +/-:	+287.92

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.*



THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

TODAY : WORSHIP, 9:00 AM

NO Bible Class & Sunday School

Christmas Eve Candlelight, 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM

MON - Christmas Day, 9:00 AM

Office Closed

WED - Newsletter Assembly, 8:00 AM

SUN - WORSHIP, 9:00 AM

NO Bible Class & Sunday School

New Year's Eve Communion Worship, 6:00 PM

LES - Christmas Break All Week – NO SCHOOL

SPECIAL CALL MEETING:

With the recent announcement that E. John Fredrich has accepted a call, we have begun the calling process to fill the resulting vacancy in our school staff. We have scheduled a call meeting for January 7th immediately following the late service. This call meeting will be a little different than those we've held in the past so we are sharing some additional information now, to ensure you are well informed before the meeting.

You may be aware that our synod is currently facing a shortage of called workers. As a result, the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools has encouraged congregations to consider local candidates not currently serving in one of our schools when a need to call exists.

As our School Board looked within our congregation, they identified Lyric Carmack as someone who has the requisite teaching skills we are looking for. Lyric is currently a third-grade teacher at Shaw Butte Elementary. Our principal, Joel Walker, reached out to Lyric and determined she would be willing to consider a call to teach at Grace. Please note, this does not necessarily mean she would accept the call, just that she would

prayerfully consider the call and then make a decision (as any of our called workers do).

Lyric is not a graduate of Martin Luther College, as most of our teachers are, but is a graduate of Arizona State University. This is not a first for Grace, as Kim Buchholz also came to our faculty without attending MLC. When calling a non-synod certified teacher, we are required to extend a one-year call which can then be extended each year until the individual completes their synod certification, at which time the call may be made permanent.

Please plan to attend this important meeting on January 7th as we consider extending a one-year call to Lyric.

CURRENT CALLS:

DIVINE CALL... Grace has extended a Divine Call to Pastor Jasper Sellnow who is currently serving at Saint Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in Friendship, WI. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

CALL RECEIVED... Ms. Michael Wilde has received a Divine Call to teach 1st & 2nd Grades at St. Paul's in Algoma, WI. Please keep her in your prayers as she deliberates her two calls.

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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