

CHRISTMAS 1

DECEMBER 31, 2023



Good News of Great Joy



PEACE ON EARTH



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

623.937.2010

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
pastorjacobson@graceglendale.org
Principal Joel D. Walker x302
jwalker@graceglendale.org
Office Manager, Debbie Petersen x322
officemanager@graceglendale.org
School Office Manager, Monica Assaker x326
massaker@graceglendale.org
Church Secretary
secretary@graceglendale.org

AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Schulz
Senior ushers: Nick Lincoln / Owen Beilke
Organist: Rachel Kulhanek
A/V Team: Jon Scheel

Hymn: 364 Love Has Come

Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

*Text: © 1996 LNW Hymns, admin. Music Services, Inc. Used by permission:
OneLicense no. 705990*

(Please stand)

Responses

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

Time of Christmas

Show us your unfailing love, Lord,

and grant us your salvation.

The glory of the Lord will be revealed,

and all people will see it together.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that you have come to us as the Babe of Bethlehem, and have revealed yourself as our dear brother, as well as our Savior God. Is not this a wonder that you, our eternal God, became poor so that we through your poverty might become rich? Fill us with peace and joy so that like Simeon and Anna, we will be ready to live for you in this life, and to look forward to being with you forever in heaven.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading

1 Kings 8:6–13

The glory of the Lord fills his temple and fills Solomon with peace.

⁶The priests then brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and overshadowed the ark and its carrying poles. ⁸These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. ⁹There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

¹⁰When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. ¹¹And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple.

¹²Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in a dark cloud; ¹³I have indeed built a magnificent temple for you, a place for you to dwell forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12–17 *Colossians 3:12–17*

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive

as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

Luke 2:22–40

The word about Christ fills his people with peace.

²²When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do

for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Please be seated)

Hymn: 355 Let All Together Praise Our God

Let all together praise our God
before his highest throne;
today he opens heav'n again
and gives us his own Son,
and gives us his own Son.

He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,
is born an infant small,
and in a manger, poor and lone,
lies in a humble stall,
lies in a humble stall.

He veils in flesh his pow'r divine
a servant's form to take,
in want and lowliness must pine
who heav'n and earth did make,
who heav'n and earth did make.

He undertakes a great exchange,
puts on our human frame,
and in return gives us his realm,
his glory, and his name,
his glory, and his name.

He serves that I a lord may be—
a great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me

to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?

For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, sts. 1-3,5,6, alt.; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, st. 4

Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6): Public domain

Text (st. 4): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

Sermon

Colossians 3:12-17

YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE LORD

1. That glory shines in your spiritual life
2. That glory will shine in your daily life

(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 and gracious Lord, *in this holy season* we rejoice with hearts and voices because you sent your one and only Son from his majestic glory to save us from the slavery of sin and the agonies of death. He took on our human flesh that he might reveal your divine glory.

He became our brother that we might become your children forever.

Give us quiet time during these busy days to reflect on your love and ponder the miracle of our Savior's incarnation. Help us look beyond our gift-giving and gift-receiving, and discover the greatest gift: the forgiveness of sins and life with you.

Put the joys of Christmas into the perspective of our eternal celebration, and let music and art lift our hearts to Christ who is truly the center of the season.

Keep in your loving care all whose Christmas joys are diminished by sickness and sadness, by unhappy recollections and uncertain hopes. Comfort those who sense this Christmas may be their last, and raise their eyes to the brilliant lights of heaven. Soothe consciences that are troubled by guilt and regret.

Show them the forgiving love of Christ.

Special Intercessions

We commend to your care all who proclaim the message of Christ during these holy days; all who care for people in hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons; and all who put themselves out to bring joy to others, especially children.

Let the light of your grace shine through all ministries of mercy.

Send us your Holy Spirit, gracious Lord, that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift our hearts to confident faith and holy living. By the power of your Word, bring your light to hearts struggling to understand you and searching to find you that they may know the joys of this season as we do.

Empower us to lead them to your love in our words and deeds.

All this we ask in the name of the newborn King, born in Bethlehem and now living and reigning forever in heaven.

Amen.

Offerings Of Love to Our Lord

Please complete the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time.

Hymn: 540 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild,
for sinners you became a child.

You came from heaven to fulfill
your Father's just and holy will,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild,
with God we now are reconciled.

You have for all the ransom paid,
your Father's righteous anger stayed,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.

O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild,
joy fills the world which sin defiled.

Whate'er we have belongs to you,
O keep us faithful, strong, and true,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.

*Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.;
(sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–1982*

Text: Public domain

(Please stand)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Time of Christmas

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take on our humanity and to dwell among us. Grant that we, who have been born

again and made your children in Baptism, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

Hymn: 332 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Let us all with gladsome voice
praise the God of heaven,
who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
his own Son has given.

To this vale of tears he comes,
here to serve in sadness,
that with him in heav'n's fair homes
we may reign in gladness.

We are rich, for he was poor;
is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
bless us and be near us.
Grant us now a glad new year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; German, 17th cent
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

SPECIAL THANKS... to Pastor Schulz for leading our worship and delivering the message this morning.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS... were donated by Howard and Sandy Jaeger.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Worship: 9:00 AM – 177

Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM – 306 7:00 PM – 133

Christmas Day: 9:00 AM – 175

HOSPITALIZED OR RECUPERATING AT HOME:

Janet Brussman

Dixie Carpenter

Aaron Nielsen

Deb Nutting

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.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

TODAY : WORSHIP, 9:00 AM

NO Bible Class & Sunday School

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

MON - Offices Closed, LES Christmas Break All Week

TUE - Ladies Aid, 7:00 PM

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

THUR - Elders Meeting, 3:00 PM

SUN - COMMUNION WORSHIP, 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Bible Class & Sunday School, 9:30 AM

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP...

FINAL COMMUNION OF 2023... Join us at 6:00 PM tonight for our special New Year's Eve worship service. Holy Communion will be offered during this final service of the calendar year.

LES ON WINTER BREAK... Our Lutheran Elementary School continues its Winter Break this week. Classes resume next Monday, January 7th.

ABC... Adult Breakfast and Coffee Group will meet this Wednesday, January 3, 8:30 AM at Village Inn, 9490 W Northern Ave. For more information, please text Pat Walker, at 480-717-0131 or email patwalker1950@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

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

Week ending 12/24/2023:

Weekly Need:	17,200.00
Weekly Actual:	18,234.20
	+1,034.20

YTD 7/1/2023 through 12/24/2023:

YTD Need:	452,200.00
YTD Actual:	453,522.12
YTD +/-:	+1,322.12

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.*

ACSTO TUITION TAX CREDIT DONATIONS... We still have many students in need of ACSTO Scholarship funding. Donations for 2023 Tax Credits can be made until April 15th or when you file your 2023 Tax Return – whichever is earlier. Donations made in December will be available for student scholarships in the February/March award period. There is a wealth of information available at **acsto.org** if you have questions about how this program works, how much you can donate, and how to claim it when you file your return.

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 next **Sunday, 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 next **Sunday, January 7th**, as we consider extending a one-year call to Lyric.

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

5600 West Palmyra Ave

Glendale, Arizona 85301

tel: 623-937-2010

email: info@graceglendale.org

web: <https://www.graceglendale.org>

