

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2025



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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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...

Presiding Minister: Pastor Sellnow

Senior ushers: Jon Floerke / Nick Lincoln

Organist: Michael Wilde

A/V Team: Mark Breiling / Jon Scheel

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

CW 354

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears?
If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.
Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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.

Glory to God in the highest!

HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

CW 346

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 ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - - o.

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.

Tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 “Your God reigns!”
⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
 together they shout for joy.
When the LORD returns to Zion,
 they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
 you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
 in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
 the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: JOY TO THE WORLD

Psalm 98B

Music and lyrics can be found on the screens or in the gray Psalter in the pews.

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

CW 358 sts. 1–2

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,

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

he the source, the Sav - ior end - - ing our he, race,

bore the Sav - ior end - - ing our he, race,

of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem er,

and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

GOSPEL

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not

recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: O REJOICE, ALL CHRISTIANS LOUDLY

CW 366

SERMON

John 1:1-14

UNWRAPPING GOD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Please stand

HYMN: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

CW 358 st. 5

5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing
and un - end - ing prais - es be,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er-more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

ATHANASIAN CREED

This creed is named after St. Athanasius, a staunch defender of the Christian faith in the fourth century. It combats two errors that undermine Bible teaching. One error denies that God's Son and the Holy Spirit are one with the Father. The other error denies that Jesus Christ is true God and true man in one person. The Athanasian Creed declares that whoever rejects the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of Christ is without saving faith. Today we confess the second half of this Creed. (We often confess the first half of this Creed on Trinity Sunday.)

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith: We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother,
fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh,

equal to the Father as to his deity,
less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one,
one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person;
for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

ALL: This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal and gracious Lord, on this holy day 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 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.

Help us to see the joys of Christmas with an eternal perspective, and let music and art lift our hearts to Christ who is 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, and show them the forgiving love of Christ.

Send us your Holy Spirit that the proclamation of the Christmas gospel may lighten the load of guilt and fear and lift us 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.

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 fill out the “Welcome to Grace” register in your pew at this time!
Remember to mark if you are communing.

Please stand

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

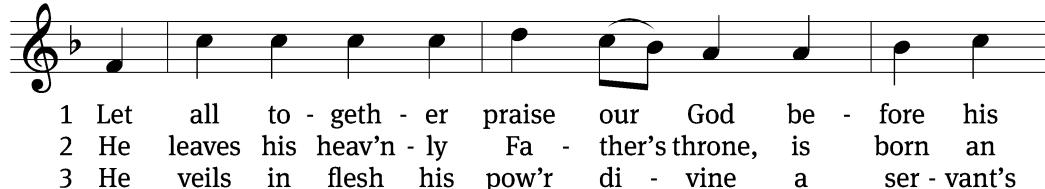
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HYMN: LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

CW 355 sts. 1–3



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's

high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
 in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
 form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
 gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, sts. 1-3, 5, 6, alt.; Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
 By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
 By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
 By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

HYMN: LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

CW 355 sts. 4–6



4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our
5 He serves that I a lord may be - a great ex - .
6 For us he o - pens wide the door of par - a -
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me to
dise to - day. The an - angel guards the gate no more; to
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.
help me in my need, to help me in my need?
God our thanks we pay, to God our thanks we pay.

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

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

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Text (sts. 5-6) and tune: Public domain

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we receive the assurance of forgiveness through the body and blood of our Savior. By sharing in this Sacrament, we also express our complete agreement with one another according to the teachings of the Bible. If you have not joined our fellowship (**Wisconsin Synod**), please permit us to tell you about our Lutheran Christian faith before you partake of this Holy Supper so that you can judge for yourself whether there is complete agreement between us.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

CW 361

GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

CW 356

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

CW 350

Please stand

THANKSGIVING & PROCLAMATION

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.

What we have received in our ears and upon our lips, O Lord, keep within us in faithful hearts, that the joy of Christ's birth may sustain us through the journey of this mortal life and his gift of forgiveness equip us for the everlasting life that is to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy this Christmas that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the certain hope of eternal life.

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: O JESUS CHRIST, YOUR MANGER IS

CW 342



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Setting One from Christian Worship

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MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: Old Testament New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was: _____



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

Yes
 No



Communion?

Yes
 No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

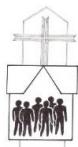
What did you learn about God today?



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Minor Festival – Holy Innocents (Sunday Services)	December 28 at 8:00 & 10:30 AM
History Behind the Hymns Vol. 2 (Christmas Song Fest Bible Class)	December 28, 9:30 AM
New Year's Eve (Communion Service)	December 31, 6:00 PM

NOTES:



Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

UNWRAPPING GOD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

John 1:1-14

How many Christmas services have you attended in your life? Include Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Children's Christmas Service, or other Christmas Worship opportunities you've had (you can estimate). Do any stand out above the rest?

What is the blessing in hearing the Christmas message so many times in our lives? What is the danger if we are not careful?

Why do you think John chapter 1 has been used by the Christian Church for ages as the appointed Gospel reading for Christmas Day? What verse stood out to you most this year?

John calls Jesus "the Word made flesh". Why is this such a perfect description of Jesus?

Select one aspect of the service (liturgy, Scripture reading, hymn, sermon, sacrament, etc.) and describe how God helped to unwrap the gift of Jesus in a meaningful way through it for you today.
