

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcomes You!

The Great Thanksgiving

Everyone is Welcome!



By Grace you have been saved!

*"We have decided to follow Jesus and
There's no turning back!"*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2022

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle/Christmas Proclamation

Hymn *"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"* LBW # 45

Invocation/Confession

P: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Words of Absolution

Hymn *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"* LBW #41

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

P: God has not forgotten to love us all!

C: Even the ends of the earth have heard!

P: Make a joyful noise!

C: Break forth in song!

P: With strings and horns,

C: sing praise to the Holy One!

P: With the roaring sea and everything in it!

C: With all the land and everything in it!

P: The floods clap their hands.

C: The hills sing for joy.

P: Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

C: Justice for everyone, everything fair.

P: Sing to God something brand new!

C: For God has done wonderful things!

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God,

C: You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness 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.

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *"What Child Is This"* LBW # 40

Responsive Prayer

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

Offering *"Away in a Manger"* LBW # 67

Offertory *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* LBW # 71

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance,

C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving Page 88

The Lord's Prayer Page 91

Communion Hymns LBW # 69, #56, # 60

Post Communion Prayer

Lighting of the Candles

Candlelight Hymn *"Silent Night, Holy Night"* LBW # 65

Benediction & Dismissal

Closing Hymn *"Joy to the World"* LBW # 39

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep
darkness—
on them light has shined.
³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and
forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 96

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing
salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce
impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-con-
trolled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait
for the blessed hope and the manifestation
of the glory of our great God and Savior,
Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for
us that he might redeem us from all iniqu-
ity and purify for himself a people of his
own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

In those days a decree went out from
Emperor Augustus that all the world should
be registered. ²This was the first registration
and was taken while Quirinius was governor
of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be
registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town
of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city
of David called Bethlehem, because he was
descended from the house and family of
David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary,
to whom he was engaged and who was ex-
pecting a child. ⁶While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and
wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him
in a manger, because there was no place for
them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living
in the fields, keeping watch over their flock
by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood
before them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But
the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for
see—I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in
the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will
find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and
lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was
with the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one
another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and
see this thing that has taken place, which
the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they
went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When
they saw this, they made known what had
been told them about this child; ¹⁸and
all who heard it were amazed at what the
shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured
all these words and pondered them in her
heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying
and praising God for all they had heard and
seen, as it had been told them.]

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]; John 1:1-14.

Cover: *The Shepherds: Glory to God in the Highest* by Hanna Varghese (with permission of Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary). Copyright © Hanna Varghese/Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Tracks 1 and 2 ELCA-V Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

AN INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

We believe that with the bread and wine one receives the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins. We welcome other Christians to receive Holy Communion with us. Children who have not had first Communion instruction may come forward for a blessing.



The lights will be completely turned off during the singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night". When lighting the individual candles, the lit candle should always stay in the upright position. The unlit candle is tilted to the lit candle. Once lit, always keep the lighted candle upright.

The Blessings Of
Christmas
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

*You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)*



The following poinsettias
have been donated by

Jim Armknecht family
Bruce, Jim, Diane, Janice & family
Gene & Diane Ekhoﬀ
Carl & Sarah Purcell
Eleta Eisenhower
Dean & Jody Wellensiek
Russell & Kate Dietz
Bill & Alta Bohling
Kurt & Julie Eﬀken
Gayleen Eden
Bill & Carolyn Cropp, Bryce & Lisa Cropp

In Memory of

Sandy Armknecht
Bob & Ruth Armknecht
Our Parents & Barb & Herb
Our Parents & Grandparents
Jill & David
Our Parents
Our Grandparents & Russell's dad
Our Parents and loved Ones
Loved Ones
Mike & Our Parents
Loved Ones



For unto us
a child
is born,
— unto us —
a SON
is given:
— and the —
government
shall be upon
HIS SHOULDER:
— and —
his name
shall be called
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
— THE —
mighty GOD,
— THE —
Everlasting
Father,
— THE —
Prince
of
Peace.



— THE —