

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes you to  
The Great Thanksgiving*



*Everyone is Welcome!  
Taste and See that the Lord is Good,  
Let us rejoice together!*

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY      December 25, 2022**

**Pastor Jim Helgren**

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**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

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**We carry the “light” out into the world! Depart to serve!**

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.

***We pray always for . . .***

*Grace Bentzinger, Bill Bohling, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels,  
Tucker Drake, Eric Fass, Kathy Helgren, Eugene Rosenthal, &  
Haleigh Werner*

***We also remember in our prayers . . .***

*Anna, Vanessa, Diana & Meshack, orphans we are sponsoring  
in Tanzania.*

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's  
box in the south office. You may email the church office  
[grace68329@gmail.com](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

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

**Today 12/25/22**

*Worship w/Communion @ Grace Lutheran – 10:00 a.m.  
Joint Worship with Hope  
No Sunday School*

**Monday 12/26/22**

*Annual Report Articles and Tower Echoes Deadline*

**Next Sunday 1/1/22**

*Worship Joint @ Hope Lutheran –10:00 a.m.*

*Please be sure to **send in any updates** (new addresses, phone numbers, email address, etc.) **for all family members** on the Church membership list, and for the ELCW Yearbook. **Please** let us know if you or someone you know is not receiving the Tower Echoes – we would like you to be on the list, either mail or by email.*



# Today's Readings

Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

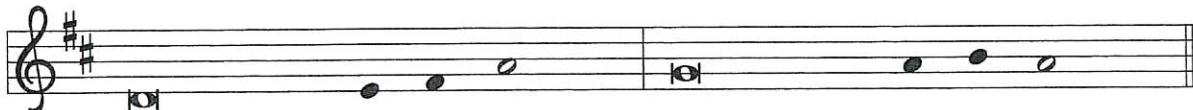
**Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who  
announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."  
<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

## Psalm

**Psalm 98; tone 4**



Sing a new song to the LORD,  
who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm  
have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.  
<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known  
your victory,  
you have revealed your  
righteousness  
in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations.  
<sup>3</sup>You remember  
your steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.  
<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD,  
<sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the <sup>1</sup> voice of song.  
<sup>6</sup>With trumpets  
and the sound <sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy  
before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.  
<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those  
who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.  
<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy  
before the LORD,  
who comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.  
<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world  
with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity.

## Second Reading

### Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son”?

<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

<sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.”

<sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says,  
“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,  
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.  
<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

<sup>10</sup>And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

<sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like clothing;  
<sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up,  
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.”]

## Gospel

### John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which

enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## TODAY'S READINGS December 25, 2022

### Volume 54, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Name of Jesus Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21 OR First Sunday of Christmas Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23.

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We are again hosting Tanzanian orphan Scholarships. The cost for each child this year will be \$450 and includes tuition and board. Last year we raised \$1,800.00 - enough to host 4 children. Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations can be given until the end of January. Sheridan will be sending us information in January.



Rejoicing with you in the  
miracle of Christmas.