

*Grace Lutheran Church
Welcomes You!*

*Begin
the
Year
with*



*By Grace you have been saved!
"We have decided to follow Jesus and
There's no turning back!"*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Once in Royal David’s City”

WOV Hymn # 643

Greeting

WOV Page 46

Scripture Song

WOV Page 47

Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

See Insert

Psalm 148

See Insert

The Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

See Insert

The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

See Insert

Gospel Acclamation

WOV Page 48

Children’s message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Away In a Manger” WOV Hymn # 644

Response to the Word WOV Page 49

Offering

Offertory “Oh Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” Verse 5 LBW # 34

Prayers of the Church

WOV Page 52

The Lord’s Prayer

WOV Page 52

Benediction & Dismissal

WOV Hymn # 646

Closing Hymn “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Postlude

Noisy Coin Offering will be collected again today
for the JCC Wish Lists.

*Please join us for fellowship in the basement
following worship ☺*

We pray always for . . .

Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eric Fass, Haleigh Werner & Will Yank

We also remember in our prayers . . .

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

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

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box in the
south office. Church office email grace68329@gmail.com*

Today 12/31/23

*Worship – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

Monday 1/1/24



Tuesday 1/2/24

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

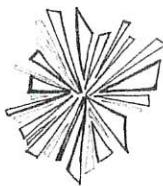
Wednesday 1/3/24

GLC 75th Anniversary Committee Mtg – 5:30 p.m.

Next Sunday 1/7/24

*Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*

*ELCW Yearbooks and Offering Envelopes are available to
pick up at the back of the church.*



Today's Readings

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

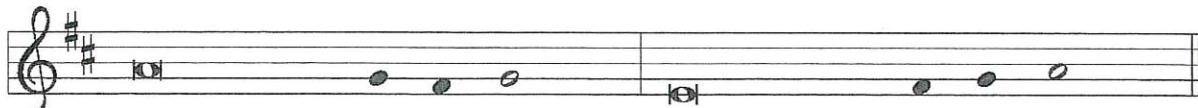
First Reading

I will greatly rejoice in the **LORD**,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments
of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown
in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like
the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the **LORD** will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the
hand of the **LORD**,
and a royal diadem in the hand of
your God.

Psalm



Hallelujah!
Praise the **LORD**¹ from the heavens;
 praise God¹ in the heights.
²Praise the **LORD**,¹ all you angels;
 sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.
³Praise the **LORD**,¹ sun and moon;
 sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
⁴Praise the **LORD**, heav-¹ en of heavens,
 and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.
⁵Let them praise the name¹ of the **LORD**,
 who commanded,
 and they¹ were created,
⁶who made them stand fast
forev-¹ er and ever,
 giving them a law
 that shall not¹ pass away.

Psalm 148; tone 6

⁷Praise the **LORD**¹ from the earth,
 you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
 tempestuous wind,
 do-¹ ing God's will;
⁹mountains¹ and all hills,
 fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
 creeping things and¹ flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers¹ of the world;
¹²young¹ men and maidens,
 old and¹ young together.
¹³Let them praise the name¹ of the **LORD**,
 whose name only is exalted,
 whose splendor
 is over¹ earth and heaven. *continued*

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all ¹ faithful servants,

the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Tanzanian Orphans information will be sent to all sponsors in January! The Cost per scholarship will be \$475.

Hello Tanzania Sponsors,

Pastor Sarah from Sheridan and our Sarah Purcell are going to Tanzania with the Synod from January 21st to February 6th. If you would like to send a letter to the students that you sponsor, please do so and have them turned into Sarah Purcell by January 14th, so that she is able to take them with when she goes on her trip!

Say Cheese!

The Worship, Evangelism, and Fellowship Committee would like to take pictures of our church members starting on Sunday, January 7 after church. Pictures will be taken during fellowship in front of the stage, with the curtain drawn. Pictures will then be displayed on the south bulletin board in the basement. If you can't make church on January 7th, we will take pictures again in February for those who missed it.

AND THE CHILD GREW AND
BECAME STRONG
HE WAS filled WITH WISDOM
AND THE grace of God WAS ON HIM.
LUKE 2:40