

Grace Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Pastor Jim Helgren

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG - ELW #269 – “Once in Royal David’s City”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - ELW p. 94 *Please stand in body or spirit.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

A: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen. Assembly sits.

GREETING - p. 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

KYRIE - p. 138

HYMN OF PRAISE - ELW #293 – “That Boy-Child of Mary”

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Please see insert.

FIRST READING – Malachi 3:1-4 Please see insert.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM – 1:68-79 Please see insert and read responsively.

SECOND READING – Philippians 1:3-11 Please see insert.

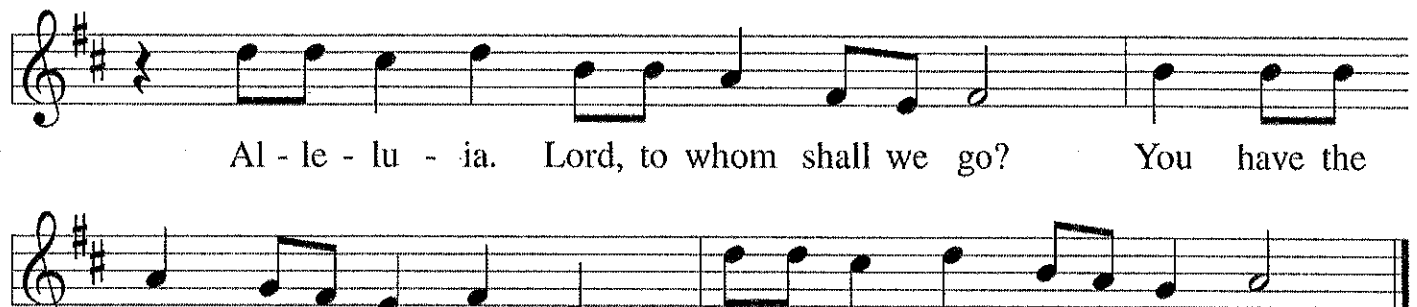
Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - p. 142

Please stand in body or spirit.



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL – Luke 3:1-6 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ. *The assembly sits.*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON - ELW #276 – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW #296 – “What Child is This”

ELW #292 – “Love Has Come”

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW #288 – “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

APOSTLES CREED - p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY - “Cultivating Love through Hope” hymn –

ELW #266 - “All Earth is Hopeful” – All Verses

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - p. 143 Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER - p. 145 – *Please stand in body or spirit.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

BLESSING - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL - p. 146 - Response after the blessing:

A: Thanks be to God. *The assembly sits.*

SENDING SONG - ELW #290 – “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

POSTLUDE

Announcements

Today 12/29/24 *First Sunday of Christmas*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

WEDNESDAY 1/1/25

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

SUNDAY 1/5/25 *Second Sunday of Christmas*

Worship w/Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

We pray always for . . .

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Gary Carman, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek & Haleigh Werner*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Winfrida, Juliet, Vanesa & Evance, 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

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

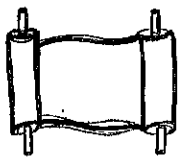
Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺

THE Tanzania Scholarship PROJECT

WE HAVE RECEIVED \$1750 towards our \$1900 TO SPONSOR 4 STUDENTS!!

Grace Lutheran again this year is sponsoring—The **Tanzania Scholarship Project** . This project sponsors orphans so they can attend a Christian high school. Primary schools in Tanzania are free but secondary schools have fees. Our scholarship students attend one of eleven Lutheran High Schools in northern Tanzania, East Africa. The scholarship for one year of tuition, boarding, uniforms, and school supplies is \$475. In the past years of this project, we have witnessed God working through his people. ***We have made a difference!***

In the past Grace received donations to sponsor 4 orphans. Your contribution is tax deductible. 100% of your donation goes to your orphan's education! *Donations towards this project should be designated on your offering envelope and then one check will be sent to Sheridan Lutheran in Lincoln. These donations must be in NO LATER than December 29th TODAY!*



Today's Readings

First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.
¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.
²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay

you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalm

Psalm 148; tone 1



Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD ¹from the heavens;
praise God ¹in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, ¹all you angels;
sing praise,
all you ¹hosts of heaven.

³Praise the LORD, ¹sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD,
heav- ¹en of heavens,
and you waters
a- ¹bove the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name
¹of the LORD,
who commanded,
and they ¹were created,

⁶who made them stand fast
forev- ¹er and ever,

giving them a law
that shall not ¹pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD ¹from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, ¹snow and fog,
tempestuous wind,
do- ¹ing God's will;

⁹mountains ¹and all hills,
fruit trees ¹and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts ¹and all cattle,
creeping things
and ¹flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth
¹and all peoples,
princes and all rulers
¹of the world;

¹²young ¹men and maidens,
old and ¹young together.

continued

¹³Let them praise the name

of the LORD,

whose name only is exalted,

whose splendor

is over ¹earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up

strength for the people

and praise for all ¹faithful servants,

the children of Israel,

a people who are near the LORD.

¹ Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of

Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard

him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

TODAY'S READINGS December 29, 2024

Volume 56, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18.

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