

# 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”

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

P: In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup>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 <sup>†</sup>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.

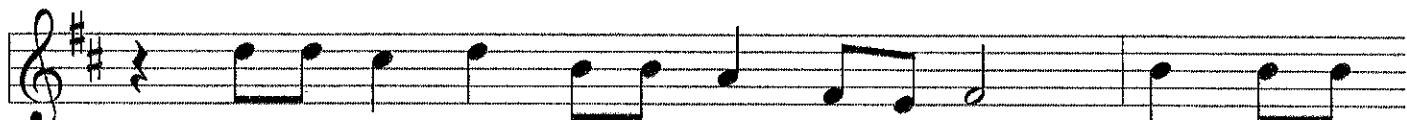
Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

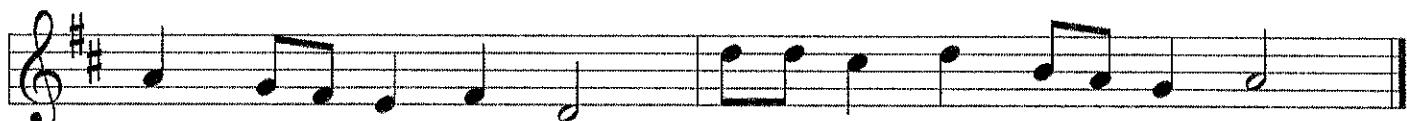
**A: Thanks be to God.**

**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 . . .**

*Winfida, 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](mailto:grace68329@gmail.com)*

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

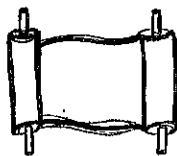
***Please join us for fellowship in the basement following worship ☺***

### **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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

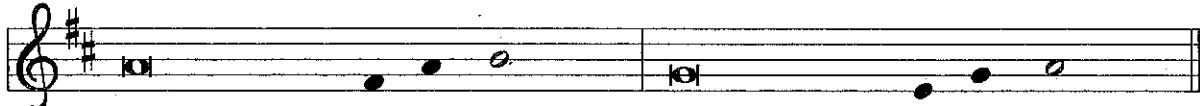
Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD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

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

<sup>26</sup> Now 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 <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
    praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
    sing praise,  
    all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.  
<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
    sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD,  
heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
    and you waters  
    a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name  
    of the LORD,  
    who commanded,  
    and they <sup>1</sup> were created,  
<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast  
forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,

giving them a law  
    that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
    you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
    tempestuous wind,  
    do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;  
<sup>9</sup>mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
    fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
    creeping things  
    and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth  
    and all peoples,  
    princes and all rulers  
    of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
    old and <sup>1</sup> young together.

*continued*

*Psalm, continued*

<sup>18</sup>Let them praise the name  
of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor  
is over <sup>1</sup> earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up  
strength for the people  
and praise for all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants,  
the children of Israel,  
a people who are near the LORD.  
<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>18</sup>Bear 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. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of

Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let 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. <sup>17</sup>And 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. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming 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. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard

him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When 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." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And 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.

TODAY'S READINGS (ISSN 1069-0166, USPS 009628) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Today's Readings, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day and psalm from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Psalm tone accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year C* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year C.