

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2025

Pastor Jim Helgren

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**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING SONG** - ELW #275 – *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory!”*

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

**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 sins 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** - p. 140

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see insert. Response after the prayer: **Amen.**

**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** – 84 Please see insert and read responsively

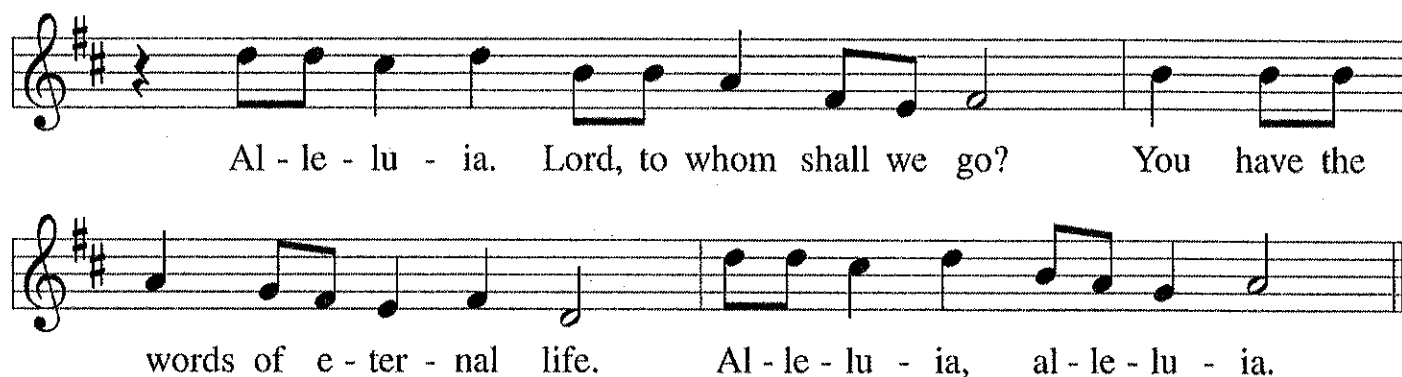
**SECOND READING** – Hebrews 2:14-18 Please see insert. Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

A: Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** - p. 142

*Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*



P: The holy gospel according to ....

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL** – Luke 2:22-40 Please see insert.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** - ELW #295 – “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**NICENE CREED** - p. 104

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made,  
of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin  
Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he  
suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He  
will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no  
end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and  
Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken  
through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We  
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of  
the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**A: hear our prayer.**

**PEACE** - p. 143 *Please stand in body or spirit*

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** - “Cultivating Love through Epiphanies” hymn - ELW #677 –

“This Little Light of Mine” – All Verses

**GREAT THANKSGIVING - p. 144**

**LORD'S PRAYER - p. 145**

*Please stand in body or spirit for the Lord's Prayer.*

**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.**

**LAMB OF GOD - p. 146**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING - p. 113**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:

A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.

**BLESSING - p. 114 - Response after the blessing:**

**A: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL - p. 115 - Response after the dismissal:**

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

**SENDING SONG - ELW #815 – "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

**POSTLUDE**

## *Announcements*

**Today 2/2/25** *Presentation of Our Lord*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

**TUESDAY 2/4/25**

Piecemakers Blanket Making All Day

**WEDNESDAY 2/5/25**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY 2/9/25** *Fifth Sunday after Epiphany*

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

St. Paul's UCC-Osage Church Soup Dinner – 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

### **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 . . .***

*Pastor Steve Billington, Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Char Helgren, Becky Knake,  
Axl Walters, Joan Wellensiek, Andy 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](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 ☺***





# Today's Readings

Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2025

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## Psalm

Psalm 84; tone 1



How dear to me <sup>1</sup>is your dwelling,  
O <sup>1</sup>LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul has a desire and longing  
for the courts <sup>1</sup>of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice  
in the <sup>1</sup>living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest  
where she may <sup>1</sup>lay her young,  
by the side of your altars,  
O LORD of hosts,  
my king <sup>1</sup>and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they  
who dwell <sup>1</sup>in your house!  
They will always be <sup>1</sup>praising you.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people  
whose strength <sup>1</sup>is in you,  
whose hearts are set  
on the <sup>1</sup>pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go  
through the balsam valley  
will find it a <sup>1</sup>place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it  
with <sup>1</sup>pools of water.

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from <sup>1</sup>height to height,  
and the God of gods  
will be <sup>1</sup>seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>LORD God of hosts, <sup>1</sup>hear my prayer;  
give ear, O <sup>1</sup>God of Jacob.

<sup>9</sup>Behold our defend- <sup>1</sup>er, O God;  
and look upon the face  
of <sup>1</sup>your anointed.

<sup>10</sup>For one day in your courts is better  
than a <sup>1</sup>thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold  
of the house of my God than dwell  
in the tents <sup>1</sup>of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD God  
is both sun and shield,  
bestowing <sup>1</sup>grace and glory;  
no good thing will the LORD withhold  
from those who walk <sup>1</sup>with integrity.

<sup>12</sup>O <sup>1</sup>LORD of hosts,  
happy are they  
who put their <sup>1</sup>trust in you!

or Psalm 24:7-10 [not printed]

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore

he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

<sup>25</sup>Now 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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided 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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people  
Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then 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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There 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, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At 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.

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