

*Grace Lutheran Church  
Welcomes You!*



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

# Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jim Helgren

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## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING SONG**

### **CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS – (ELW p. 94)**

*Please stand in body or spirit to receive forgiveness.*

**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 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 <sup>†</sup>Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

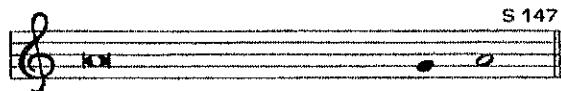
**A:** Amen. *Assembly sits.*

## GREETING – (ELW p. 147)

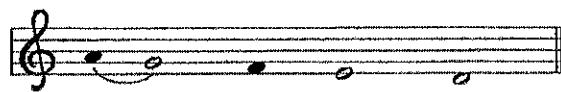
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

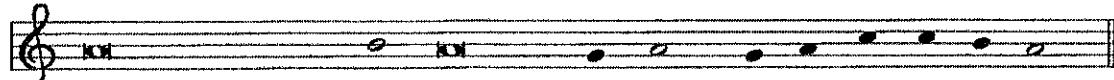
## KYRIE – (ELW p. 147)



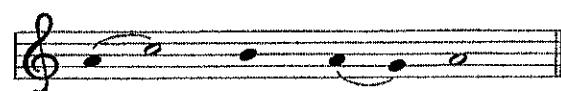
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



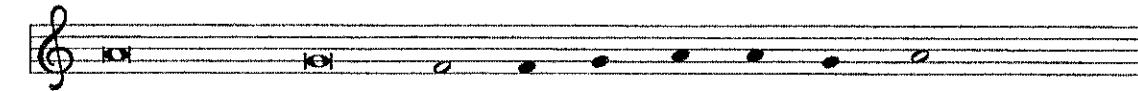
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



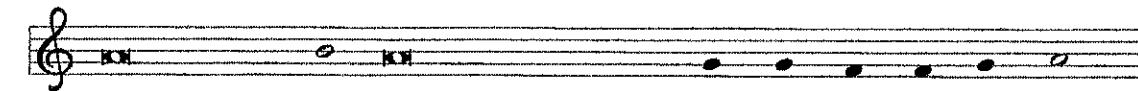
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



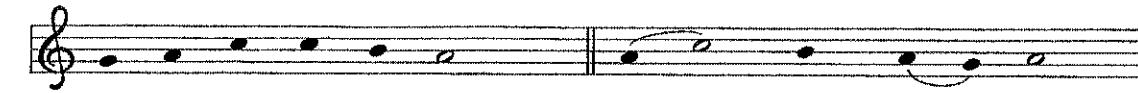
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE – (ELW p. S149)

*Refrain*

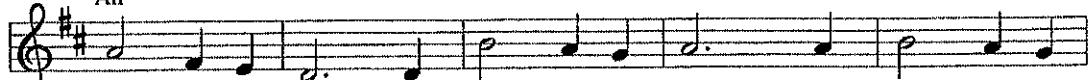
Assisting minister

S 149

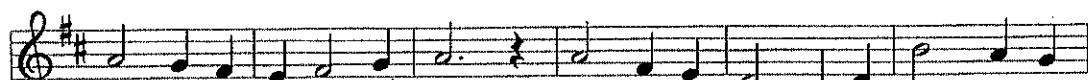


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

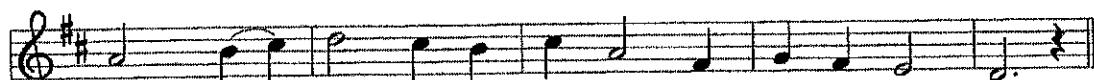
All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

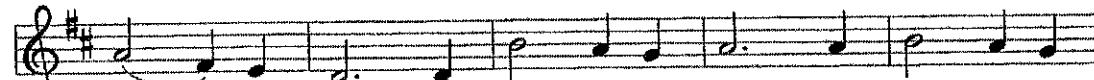


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

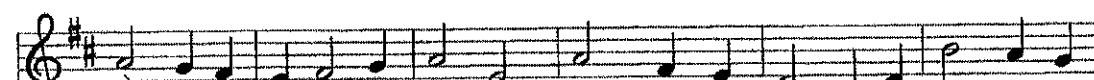
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** - Please see handout.

**FIRST READING** –Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** - Please see handout and read responsively

**SECOND READING** – Please see handout.

Response after the reading:

R: Word of God, word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – (ELW p. S151a) *Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia.      Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.      Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to ....

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

**GOSPEL** – 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**

**NICENE CREED – (ELW 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  
the 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 – (ELW p.152)**

Response after each portion of the prayer:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

**PEACE – (ELW p. 152) *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**

**OFFERING HYMN - “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” hymn - ELW #884**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING – (ELW p. 152 & 153)**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

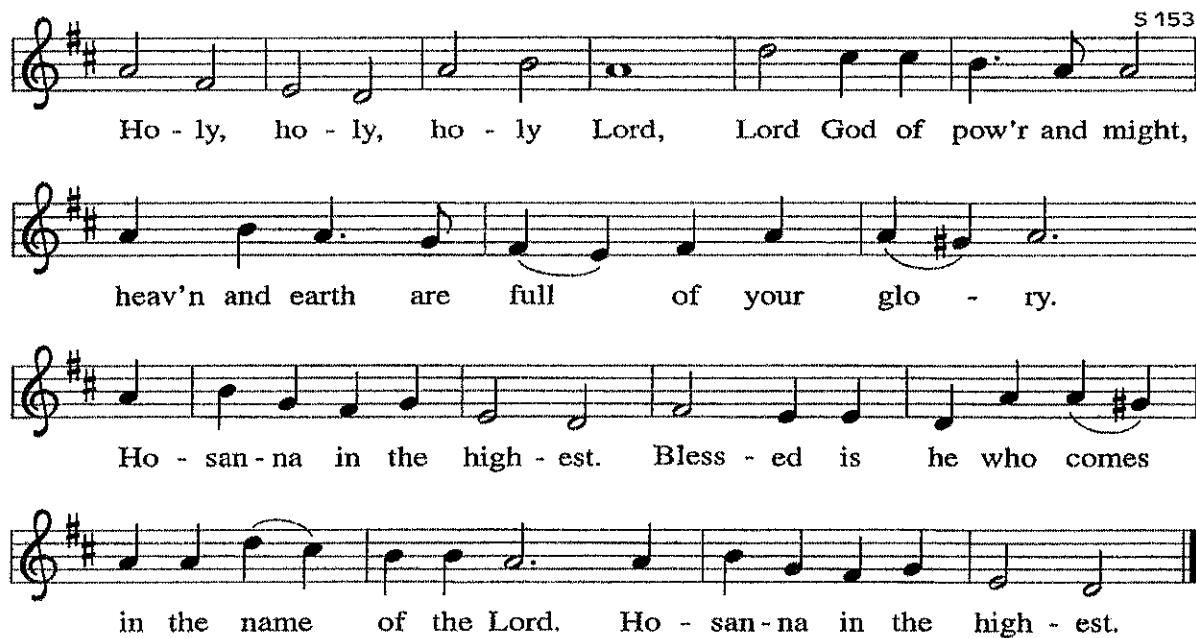
**A: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: it is right to give our thanks and praise.**



S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **LORD'S PRAYER – (ELW p. 154)**

**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 – (ELW p. 154)

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION FOLLOWED by READING – (ELW p. 113)

A: 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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### BLESSING – (ELW p. 155)

Response after the blessing:

A: Amen.

### DISMISSAL – (ELW p. 155)

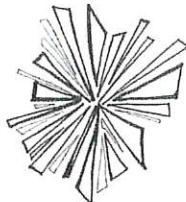
Response after the dismissal:

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

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

## SENDING SONG

Postlude



# Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

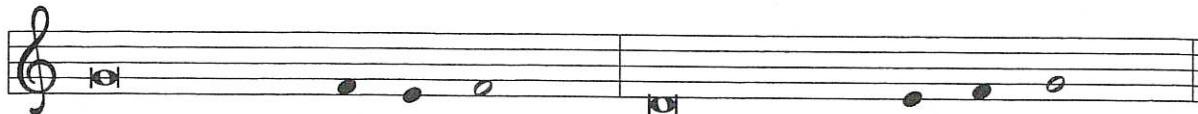
Thus says the LORD:  
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the  
nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”  
<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the  
land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts  
of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor  
together;  
a great company, they shall return here.  
<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them  
back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not  
stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.  
  
<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;

## Jeremiah 31:7-14

say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a  
flock.”  
<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too  
strong for him.  
<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the  
height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the  
goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the  
herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the  
dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be  
merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them  
gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my  
bounty,  
says the LORD.

*or Sirach 24:1-12 [not printed]*

## Psalm



Worship the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem;  
praise your <sup>1</sup> God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> who has strengthened the bars  
of your gates  
and has blessed your children  
within you.

## Psalm 147:12-20; tone 6

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace <sup>1</sup> on your borders  
and satisfies you with the <sup>1</sup> finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>God sends out a command <sup>1</sup> to the earth,  
a word that runs <sup>1</sup> very swiftly.  
<sup>16</sup>God gives <sup>1</sup> snow like wool,  
scattering <sup>1</sup> frost like ashes.

*continued*

Psalm, continued

<sup>17</sup>God scatters <sup>1</sup> hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand <sup>a-1</sup> against God's cold?  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the <sup>1</sup> word  
and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the <sup>1</sup> waters flow.

<sup>19</sup>God declares the <sup>1</sup> word to Jacob,  
statutes and judg-<sup>1</sup> ments to Israel.  
<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any  
<sup>1</sup> other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments.  
Hallelujah!

or Wisdom 10:15-21 [not printed]

## Second Reading

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his

Ephesians 1:3-14

good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

## Gospel

[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 overtake 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

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

TODAY'S READINGS January 4, 2026

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17.

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# ***Second Sunday of Christmas***

Gathering Song – ELW # 273 “All My Heart Again Rejoices”

Hymn of the Day – ELW # 293 “That Boy-Child of Mary”

Sending Song – WOV # 646 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

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

*Louis Bentzinger, Pastor Steve Billington, Gerry Brezenski, Linda Daniels,  
Elaine Hauberg, Char Helgren, Diane Roesener & Will Yank*

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

*Winfrida, Juliana, Hassan & Evance, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania*

## ***Announcements***

**TODAY 1/4/26 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

Worship with Communion – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

**TUESDAY 1/6/26**

Piecemakers Blanket Making – All Day

**WEDNESDAY 1/7/26**

Confirmation – 6:00 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY 1/11/26 Baptism of Our Lord**

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship Following Worship

*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)***

**Grace Lutheran Church Annual  
Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 18th, 2026**

Grace Lutheran Church will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2026, following worship services. Worship time will be changed to 10:00 a.m. for Joint Worship with Hope Lutheran.