

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022
8:00 PM

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to Grace to worship in God's house.

To our guests — We invite you to worship with us often and consider our family of faith yours.

Everything you need for worship is printed in this bulletin. Large Print Bulletins and Quiet Books (for our very young worshippers) are available from the ushers.

Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician for a receiver.

Please turn off or silence your personal communication device.
We also ask that you not bring food or drink into our worship space.

We are a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC embraces four core values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused. The NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about our congregation and the NALC.

Christmas Eve

On this holy night we hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth in a stable filled with animals. The Christ-child came not into a sterile maternity ward, but into the messiness of human life, so that we might know the power of his forgiveness and mercy in our lives. God revealed the nativity news to some shepherds who then came to worship him.

PRELUDE MUSIC

"Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep" - arr. Alec Wyton
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" - arr. Wilbur Held
"In the Bleak Midwinter" - arr. David Lasky
"Away in a Manger"- arr. David Williams
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" - arr. Janet Linker

Linda Hoch - organ

Selections performed by the String Quartet

String Quartet

"An Advent Gospel" - Michael Barrett/Lloyd Larso
"Gloria in Excelsis" (from Gloria) - Antonio Vivaldi

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

Words of Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

Proclamation

John 1: 1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Rejoicing in the good news that God and sinners are reconciled in Christ, let us confess our need for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P God of everlasting love,

C We confess that we have lived in captivity to the fear of death. By our actions and by our neglect, we have fallen short of your good and gracious will. Free us from anxiety and distraction; cast out our sin, and enter in; give us a new birth of hope as we welcome the child born to save, Christ the Lord. Amen.

P The angels of God proclaim to us the birth of hope and joy and peace to God's people on earth. For the sake of the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, who lived and died and rose for us, God forgives us all our sins and delights to call us beloved children.

C Amen.

CHRISTMAS DIALOG

- P The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.
- C Oh, come, let us worship him.**
- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**
- P Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- C We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth..**
- P For a child has been born for us, a son given to us..
- C What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" – *arr. Molly Ijames*

The Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Sung to the tune of "Joy To The World" verse 4

C **He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonder of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Matthew Cox

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

APOSTLES' CREED

A We confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for the world to which Christ comes, the church whom Christ calls, and all people in need whom Christ loves.

A brief silence

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

A Come down to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us, for the sake of the one whose birth and the angels sang and the shepherds proclaimed, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

You may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Ding, Dong! Merrily on High!" – *arr. Ryan Murphy*

Grace Singers Chancel Choir, Martha Crist and Linda Hoch – piano

Please stand as you are able.

PREFACE: ***Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"***

P May the good Lord be with you,
Lift your hearts to God in praise.

C **May the Lord be with you, too.
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

P In the Word of God made flesh,
great and wondrous mystery.

C **Now we see with vision fresh
God's abundant majesty.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

- P Therefore with the church on earth
and the hosts of heav'n above.
- C **Let us praise his name whose birth,
brings to us eternal love.
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
Gloria in Excelsis Deo!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P Holy God,
Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.
- In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.
- In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Sung to the tune of "Away In A Manger"

- 1. Our Father, in heaven, All praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come , Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high Throne.**
- 2. The bread that we yearn for provide us each day,
As we forgive others our sins take away;
In times of temptation to lead us be near,
from evil deliver your children most dear.**
- 3. For yours is the kingdom; O'er all things Your reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
from all of creation forever! Amen.**

Please be seated.



All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Children who do not commune are invited forward to receive a blessing.

You may receive the Communion Wine by taking a communion glass from the tray as it is offered to you.

As always, the common cup is offered for those who desire to use it, everyone is also welcome to use the individual cups. If you desire the common cup, please point to it as the individual cups pass by you.

Grape juice is available in the center of the communion tray.

After you have received, please place the empty communion glass in the basket provided

(Gluten-free hosts are available by telling the person giving the host)

COMMUNION MUSIC

(Vocal selection performed by Heather Bush)

"See Amid the Winter's Snow" - arr. Dan Forrest

(Duet selections performed by Jeff Daubenmire and Linda Hoch)

"Still, Still, Still" – arr. Mark Hayes

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" – arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard

"Coventry Carol" – arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard

(Selections performed by the String Quartet)

After communion is finished, please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

The Candle Lighting

The ushers will distribute light from the processional candles.

The person taking flame from a candle shall tilt his/her candle toward the lighted candle. Once lighted, hold your candle upright so that the next person may take light from you.

(Battery operated candles are available for children.)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Silent Night”



Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at your birth,
Jesus Lord, at your birth.

Please extinguish candles and youth return to their seats.

The Sending

BLESSING

P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. May almighty God, † Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

“Joy To The World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

DISMISSAL

P Go with the hope, peace, joy and love of the birth of Jesus our Savior!
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jeff Daubenmire - piano; Linda Hoch - organ

"Three Festive Carols" - arr. Mark Hayes/ Marvin Gaspard

Offering: A basket will be placed by the baptismal font for offering. Offerings can be placed in the basket before or after the service.

Serving Tonight

PRESIDER
ASSISTING MINISTER
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
ORGANIST
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Pastor Matt Cox
Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
Jeff Daubenmire
Linda Hoch
Bill Kulju, Vanessa Stewart, Chris Banks,
Eric Bush

GREETER
USHERS

Bev and Mike Grubb
Bev Grubb, Mike Grubb, Joe Moleno,
Brice Graves

STRING QUARTET

Nik Repka- Violin 1
Nic Lacy- Violin 2
Norman Cardwell-Murri- Viola
Jane van Voorhis- Cello

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant,
Eric Bush, Jack Rockwood



Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettia plants for the sanctuary. Plants may be picked up following the 8:00pm service this evening, Sunday, or during office hours next week.

We will have one service Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 am.

The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27.

We will have one service Sunday, January 1 at 10:00 am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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“Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep” – arr. Alec Wyton, from *Nativity Suite for Organ* by Alec Wyton, Harold Flammer, ©1965

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” – arr. Wilbur Held, from *Six Carol Settings* by Wilbur Held, Concordia Publishing House, ©1970

“In the Bleak Midwinter/CRANHAM” – arr. David Lasky, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas, Series II*, Augsburg Fortress, ©2010

“Away in a Manger/CRADLE SONG” – arr. David Williams, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas*, Augsburg Fortress, ©2001, MorningStar Music Publishers, ©1995

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” – arr. Janet Linker, from *Carols of the Christ Child: Seven Carol Settings for Organ Solo* by Janet Linker, Beckenhorst Press, ©1990

“See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” – arr. Dan Forrest, Beckenhorst Press, ©2016, 2020

“Still, Still, Still” – arr. Mark Hayes, from *Go, Tell It on the Mountain: Artistic Christmas Arrangements* for Piano Four-Hands by Mark Hayes, Lorenz Publishing Co., ©2017

“Lo How a Rose” – arr. arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard, from *Holy, Holy, Holy: Festive and Reflective Settings for Piano and Organ* by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard, Shawnee Press, ©1998

“Coventry Carol” – arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard, from *O God, Our Help in Ages Past: Festive Hymn Arrangements for Piano and Organ* by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard, Lorenz Publishing Co., ©2018

“Three Festive Carols” – arr. Mark Hayes/Marvin Gaspard, from *Holy, Holy, Holy: Festive and Reflective Settings for Piano and Organ* by Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard, Shawnee Press, ©1998

“An Advent Gospel” – Michael Barrett/Lloyd Larson, GlorySound, ©2008

“Gloria in Excelsis” from *Gloria* – Antonio Vivaldi, Walton Music Corp., ©1961

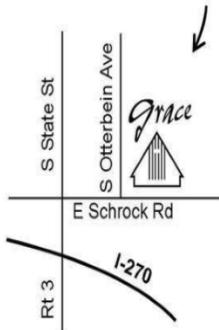
“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” – arr. Molly Ijames, Beckenhorst Press, ©2019

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High!” – arr. Ryan Murphy, Walton Music, ©2019





You're invited! Here's how to find us.



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<http://www.facebook.com/>

[GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranWesterville)

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-Noon

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 108 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also supports Lutheran Social Services programs like Faith Mission and provides weekly meeting space for Boy Scout Troop 007 and four AA groups.

Vision Statement: We envision Grace to be a welcoming Christ-centered community of faith, inviting all, growing in discipleship, sharing in ministries.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to reach out with the love of Jesus to grow disciples and serve our community.