

The Nativity of Our Lord– Christmas Day



December 25, 2025
10:00 am

Welcome to Grace

We give thanks that you have come to worship with us at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and pray that you will receive God's awesome GRACE, mercy and love as we receive Word and Sacrament, the means of grace!

We invite our guests and visitors to worship with us often! If you will, we invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form in the bulletin or at the Welcome Desk to let us know you were worshipping with us today. Visitor/Member Information sheets may be returned to the pastor, an usher, or placed in the offering.

The complete worship service is contained in this worship folder. Large print worship folders and Busy Bags for our very young worshipers are available from the ushers! We love having children in worship! Should parents have need of nursery during worship, our professionally staffed nursery for childcare is available. Please see an usher for directions.

Our worship space is equipped with a hearing assistance system to accommodate those with hearing difficulties. Please ask the sound technician (at the rear left of the worship space) for a receiver, if desired. Printed copies of the sermon are available at the ushers table in the entry-way, if desired.

Please remember to turn off or silence personal communication devices. We ask that you not bring food or drink into the worship space.

In accordance with the Biblical mandate and our Lutheran tradition, we seek to worship God "in Spirit and in truth...for these the Father seeks to worship him!" (John 4:23-24). If you are not familiar with liturgical worship, it is "the work of the people," as God speaks, the ministers speak and the congregation responds in a spoken, chanted and sung dialogue! Everything in our worship is focused on God and His incarnate, embodied presence in our midst! We pray that you will experience the Word made flesh as we worship today!

To establish and maintain a spirit of reverence, we remind worshipers to please greet one another and fellowship in the gathering space before entering the sanctuary, where others will be preparing their hearts and minds for worship. We appreciate your understanding!

We invite you to learn more about our congregation at www.grace43081.org and the NALC at www.thenalc.org!

PRELUDE

"Joy to the World"- *arr. Larson*

Jeff Daubenmire

Announcements

Please stand and face the baptismal font.

The Entrance Rite

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit
C **and blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

P We hear in Hebrews 4, "Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, that we may celebrate with joy the Christmas feast.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for His sake, 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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

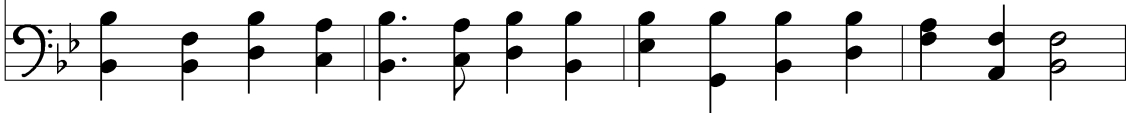
C **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



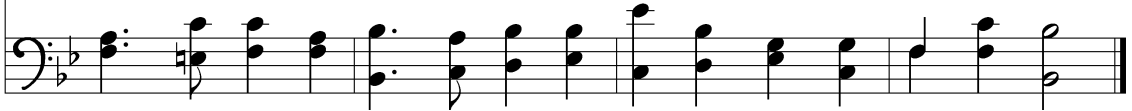
once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



The Liturgy of The Word

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)
C **And also with you!**

KYRIE

A Lord Jesus, Word made flesh to dwell among us;
C **Have mercy upon us.**

A Christ Jesus, Light of the world, shining in darkness;
C **Have mercy upon us.**

A Lord Jesus, Son of God, Lamb of God;
C **Have mercy upon us.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav’n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace, adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10


⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸ The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. ⁹ Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 2

Refrain



You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

Psalm Tone



- L ¹Why are the nations ¹in an uproar?
Why do the peoples mutter ¹empty threats?
- C ²**Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes ¹plot together, against the Lord and against ¹his anointed?**
- L ³“Let us break their ¹yoke,” they say;
“let us cast off their ¹bonds from us.”
- C ⁴**He whose throne is in heav- ¹en is laughing; the Lord has them ¹in derision. Refrain**
- L ⁵Then he speaks to them ¹in his wrath,
and his rage fills ¹them with terror.
- C ⁶**“I myself have ¹set my king upon my holy ¹hill of Zion.”**
- L ⁷Let me announce the decree ¹of the Lord:
He said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- ¹gotten you.
- C ⁸**Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹your inheritance and the ends of the earth for ¹your possession. Refrain**
- L ⁹You shall crush them with an ¹iron rod
and shatter them like a ¹piece of pottery.”
- C ¹⁰**And now, you ¹kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers ¹of the earth.**
- L ¹¹Submit to the ¹Lord with fear,
and with trembling ¹bow before him;
- C ¹²**lest he be angry, ¹and you perish; for his wrath is ¹quickly kindled.**
- L ¹³Happy ¹are they all
who take ref- ¹uge in him! **Refrain**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-6

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on

high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (verses 1-3)



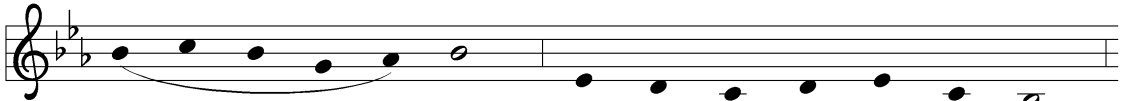
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1-14

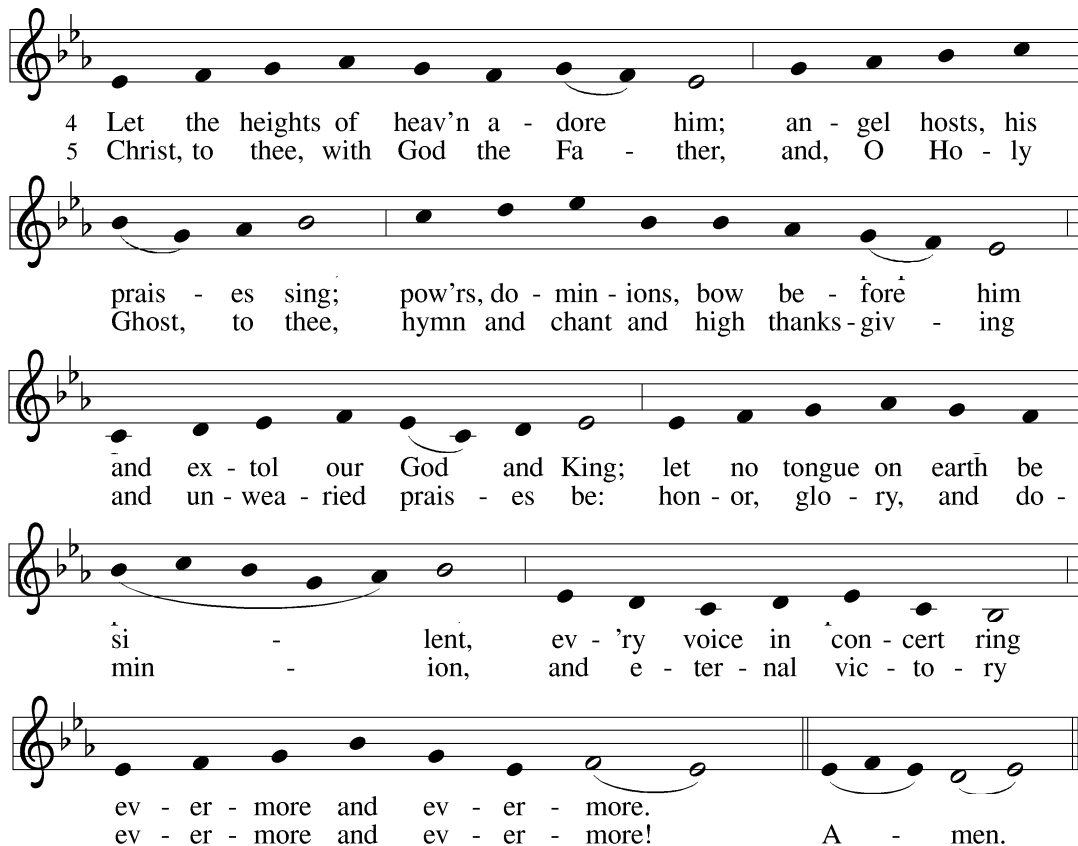
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

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

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (verses 4-5)



4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Please be seated.

SERMON: "Christmas is NOT What You Make It!" The Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel

After the sermon, a time of silence for reflection.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have sung.
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.

It came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a

wi - ter, When half spent was the night.
Sav - iour, When half spent was the night. A - men.

3 This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God,
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.

4 O Saviour, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Saviour, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

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

**C 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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.**

THE PRAYERS

A Rejoicing in God's gift of grace, let us pray for the Church,
the world, and all on whom the Light of Christ shines.

After each petition:

A Lord, in your mercy;

C Hear our prayer.

P Hear our prayers, gracious God, as we live in the light of
your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. (*Matthew 5: 22-24; John 20: 19*)

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"What Feast of Love"



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray... Gracious God,
C **we offer you these humble Christmas gifts of money, bread and wine, signs of your goodness, returned to you. Receive them and bless them, that all people may know the riches of your love in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**


THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



¶ The Lord be with you. ¶ And al - so with you.



¶ Lift up your hearts. ¶ We lift them to the Lord.



¶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



¶ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

- P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *The Presider continues with the preface, concluding:...*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering to free from suffering, those who trust you. It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection:

P Taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, broken 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.

P Remembering then, his death and resurrection, we lift this Bread and Cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people. And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church, that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit, to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

C Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/THE FRACTION

A time of silence...

P Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (*John 1:29*)

C **Blessed are those who are invited to the supper of the Lamb!**
(*Revelation 19:9*)

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Please be seated.



All who are baptized, have received the Lord's Supper and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine that become our Lord's Body and Blood, are welcome to commune. Children or adults who do not commune are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing!

The Lord's sacramental Blood is available in individual glasses and common cup. As the communion assistants approach, simply indicate which you prefer by a nod of the head or pointing to individual cups or chalice. Grape juice is available in the center ring of each tray. Please place empty individual glasses in the basket provided to either side of the altar area. Gluten-free hosts are available for those who require them. Indicate your preference to the minister administering the hosts.

Private prayer before receiving Holy Communion: O merciful Lord, I do not presume to come to your Table, trusting in my own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. I am not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose will it is always to have mercy. Make me, I pray you, worthy now to receive this Holy Communion. Grant me, gracious Lord, so to consume the very Body and Blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ in this Holy Sacrament, that He may evermore dwell in me, and I in Him, that my sinful body may be made clean by His Body, and my soul washed through His most precious Blood. Amen.

Private prayer after receiving Holy Communion: Almighty God, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that as I have received the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, He may abide in me, and I in Him, and that all who have received may be filled with the power of His endless life. By your grace, help me to walk worthy of my calling, and to learn to bring glory to your name in all things. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

☞ 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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Joseph Worrell - Vocal Solo, Jeff Daubenmire - Piano

"What Child Is This?" - arr. Philip Kern

After all have communed, 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 HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

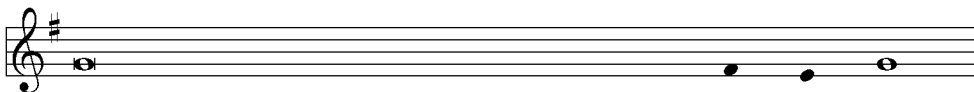
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh! To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION



Ⓟ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine on you
And be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ... give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝
and of the Holy Spirit.

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“The Bells of Christmas”

Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

THE RITE OF SENDING

- A Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. (John 8:12)
- C **The light no darkness can overcome!** (John 1:5)
- A Go in peace, serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jeff Daubenmire

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”- arr. Larson

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

Remember in our prayers... John Westenhaver, Sue Taylor, Misty Cochenour, Don Melick, Tom Zawodny, Ernestine Dietz, Steve Miller, Betty Milner, Mary Cooney, John Hicks, Amy Seifert Unkefer, Rod Rice, Sue Ross, Mary Ross, Jim Ross

Notes & News

WELCOME, GUESTS! We welcome you as our guest in our church home and invite you to continue to worship with us. We invite guests to take a welcome bag at the Welcome Desk to learn more about Grace and fill out a Welcome Form to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

WELCOME

Service Recording: The recorded service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.



NURSERY is closed Dec. 25. Questions? Molly King.

2026 Giving Envelopes and 2026 Flower sign-ups are in the Gathering Space. Questions? Debbie Yoho, 614-882-3026 or finance@grace43081.org.



Scan to *Simply Give*

This QR code connects you to the mobile version of Grace’s online giving page to give you a quick and easy way to access our webpage without having to type out a long web address. Through this link, you can create a one-time or on-going donation and to specify where you want your gift to be applied. The *Simply Giving*® Program (endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union) is an automated stewardship program that helps members give generously. Scan to *Simply Give* today.

Financial Update: If you would like a copy of the full monthly Treasurer’s report as presented to Council, please reach out to the Treasurer, Jim Caldwell and it will be emailed to you.

Dear friends in Christ,

The beloved carol, "Away in a Manger" has traditionally been called, "Martin Luther's Cradle Song," as it reflects Luther's great love for the Nativity of our Lord and the meaning of the Incarnation in the hearts and lives of God's children. The third verse of the hymn is:

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.*

As pastor and staff of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, we pray that Jesus may indeed come to us and remain close by each of us in the coming year of God's grace! May He tenderly care for you and prepare us for heaven that we may live with Him forever!

We wish to express heartfelt appreciation for the generous staff Christmas gift, as we also share sincere gratitude for the love and support we receive throughout the year! It is a joy to serve our Lord in this congregation and look forward to our shared ministry in the coming year!

Christmas blessings,

Linda Hoch
Sarah Odum

Helen Kang
Jon Sweet

Molly King
Pastor Wendel

Maria Laderman
Debbie Yoho



Serving Today

OFFICIATING/
PREACHER

Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel

ORGANIST
SACRISTAN

Jeff Daubenmire

CANTOR

Fred Pfanz

LECTOR

Chris Troutman

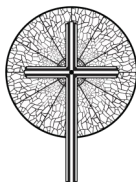
ALTAR GUILD Team 2

Fred Pfanz

Julie Hartfelder, Karen Bale, Tami Banks,
Carolyn Rearick, Sue Miller, Bonnie Sawyer,
Marge Cepek, JoAnn Slemmer

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush,
Brice Graves



This Week at Grace: Dec. 24-28, 2025

Amazing God-- Amazing Grace-- Amazing Worship!

THURS

CHRISTMAS DAY

—Office Closed—

10:00am **Worship Service**

7:30 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

FRI.

—Office Closed—

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT

9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 28

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS- Pr. David Wendel

8:15 am Worship Service

9:45 am Adult Learning (Fellowship Hall)

11:00 am Worship Service

Acknowledgements

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Hymns:

“Angels, From the Realms of Glory.” Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten.” Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. Composite. Music: Plain-song mode V, 13th cent. Text and Tune: Public Domain. Arrangement: CPH Publishing, St. Louis, MO, OneLicense.

“The Bells of Christmas”. Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt. Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855. Text and Music: Public Domain.



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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has been serving the Westerville community for more than 115 years, supporting local ministries such as the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, Westerville Partnership Habitat for Humanity, and Westerville CROP Walk. Grace also provides weekly meeting space for five 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.