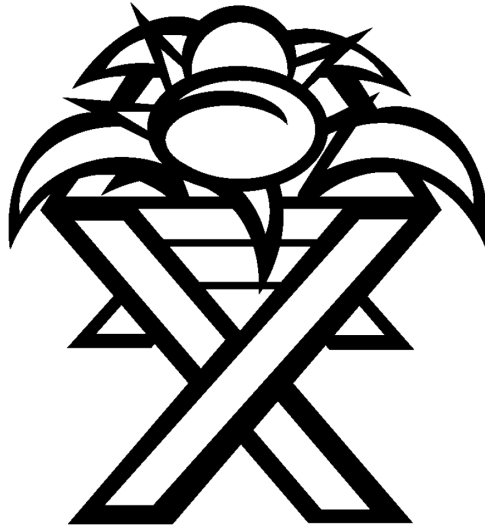


The Nativity of Our Lord



**December 24, 2023
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 worshipers) 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.

Nativity of Our Lord

The birth of Jesus, the Son of God, was a moment in time that changed humanity forever. Through this One, God came to dwell among us as Immanuel, to walk the paths that humans walk and to share in the human experience. This Jesus is fully human and yet no ordinary man; he is the priest foretold by the prophets, the Savior of the nations — love incarnate, sent to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil.

PRELUDE

Linda Hoch— Organ

"Carol Prelude on O Little Town of Bethlehem" - arr. Peter Pindar Stearns

"Away in a Manger" - arr. Janet Linker

"Once in Royal David's City" - arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

"Still, Still, Still" - arr. Paul Manz

"Divinum Mysterium" - arr. Craig Phillips

"The Sussex Carol" - arr. Karl Osterland

"A Carol Fantasy" - arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

"The Yearning" - Craig Courtney

Grace Chancel Choir

Parish Concerns

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.**

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ is chanted.

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

According to the Ancient Martyrology of Christendom

P Today the twenty fifth day of December,
In the five thousand, one hundred and ninety-ninth year
of the creation of the world, from the time when
God, in the beginning created the heavens and the earth;
The two thousand nine hundred and fifty-seventh year
after the flood;
the two-thousand and fifteenth year from the birth of
Abraham; the one thousand five hundred and tenth
year from Moses and the going forth of the people
of Israel from Egypt.
The one thousand and thirty second year from David's being
anointed king; in the sixty-fifth week according
to the prophecy of Daniel;

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the
foundation of the city of Rome;
The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
the whole world being at peace, in the sixth age of the world,
Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,
being conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and nine months having passed since his conception,
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary,
being made flesh.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to the flesh.

The Invitatory

- A When the angels went away from them into heaven, the
shepherds said to one another,
C **"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has
happened, which the Lord has made known to us."**
A And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the
babe lying in a manger. (Luke 2:15-16)

ENTERANCE HYMN

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

The Liturgy of The Word

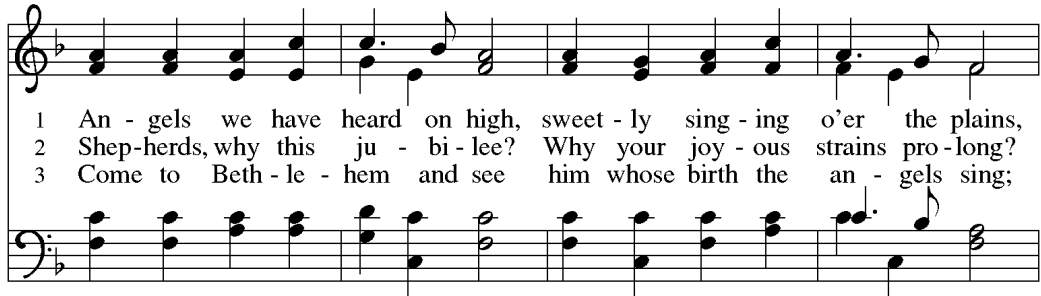
THE APOSTOIC GREETING

- 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!**

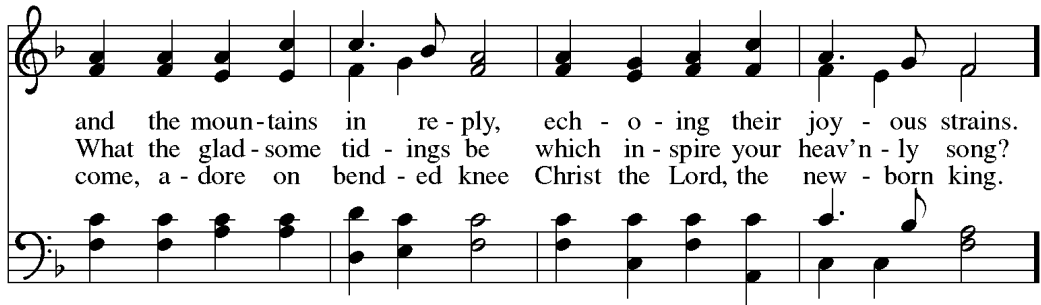
The Introit

- A Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:
C **And the government shall be upon his shoulder.**
- A And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God:
C **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** (Isaiah 9:6)
- A O sing unto the Lord a new song:
C **Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice!** (Psalm 96:1, 11)

HYMN OF PRAISE "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De-o; glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, ... through your only Son, 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 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be

called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Psalm 96

Refrain 

Let the heav-ens re-joice, and the earth be glad.

Psalm Tone 

- L ¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
 sing to the LORD, all | the whole earth.
- C ²**Sing to the LORD and | bless his name;**
proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.
- L ³Declare his glory a- | mong the nations
 and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- C ⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;**
he is more to be feared | than all gods. Refrain
- L ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
 but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.
- C ⁶**Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!**
Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!
- L ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;
 ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- C ⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his name;**
bring offerings and come in- | to his courts. Refrain
- L ⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
 let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.
- C ¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!**
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peo- |
ples with equity.”
- L ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all |
 that is in it;
 let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- C ¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD | when**
he comes,
when he comes to | judge the earth.

L ¹³He will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with his truth. **Refrain**

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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

Please stand as you are able.

THE CANDLE-LIGHTING AND SEQUENCE HYMN: “Silent Night”

During the hymn 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.)

**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!**

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 2:1-20

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

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. The Shepherds and the Angels ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a

Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the 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.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

**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 be seated.

SERMON: “Dark Christmas and the Light of Christ” **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 “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

1. I heard the bells on Christ - - mas day Their
 2. And thought how, as the day had come, The
 3. Till ring - - ing, sing - ing on its way The
 4. And in des - pair I bowed my head "There
 5. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God

old fa - - mil - iar car - - ols play, And wild and sweet
 bel - fries of all Christ - en - dom Had rolled a - long
 world re - - volved from night to day, A voice, a chime,
 is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong
 is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail,

the words re - - peat Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 th'un - - bro - - ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 a chant sub - lime Of peace on earth, good will to men.
 and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."
 the right pre - - vail With peace on earth, good will to men."

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.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Grace Singers Chancel Choir

"Rejoice! Christ Is Born!" - arr. Larry Shackley

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN

"What Child is This" (v. 1 & 3)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



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



P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



G 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:



G 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 thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent Him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

And so it is, Father, that we bring you these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the Body and Blood of your Incarnate Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.

P 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P Father, we celebrate the mystery of our redemption by the blood of the Lamb, your Son Jesus Christ, who has now become our great High Priest. With this bread and cup we remember His incarnation; His human birth and the sacrifice He made for us. Look with favor on this offering, as once you looked upon the gifts of your servant, Abraham, and your priest, Melchizedek.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit, to be for your people the holy food and drink of new and never-ending life in him. Sanctify us also, that we may faithfully receive this holy sacrament, and serve you in faithfulness and love.

P And remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who minister in your Church, all who seek your truth, and all who have died in the peace of Christ, that at the last, with Mary the Mother of our Lord and Joseph, her husband, with all the saints and angels and the whole heavenly host, we may enter into the joy of your eternal kingdom. For we ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

- P Together we pray.
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 are welcome to commune this evening.

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.)

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

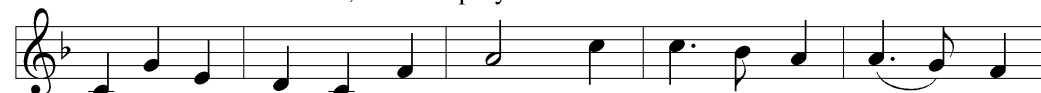
☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN**"Away in a Manger"**

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

COMMUNION HYMN**"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"**

1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time When all the birds had fled, That
 2 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time Is not so round and fair As
 3 O chil - dren of the for - est free, The an - gels' song is true. The



God, the Lord of all the earth, Sent an - gel choirs in - stead. Be -
 was the ring of glo - ry A - round the in - fant there. And
 ho - ly child of earth and heav'n Is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, And won-d'ring hunt-ers heard the hymn:
when the shep-herds then drew near The an - gel voic-es rang out clear:
kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, Who brings you beau-ty, peace, and joy.

Refrain

Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born! Glo-ry be to God on high!

COMMUNION HYMN**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

COMMUNION MUSIC**Martha Crist - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ***"The First Nowell" - arr. Lani Smith**"O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild" - arr. Lani Smith**"Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild" - arr. Lani Smith**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 - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice 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.

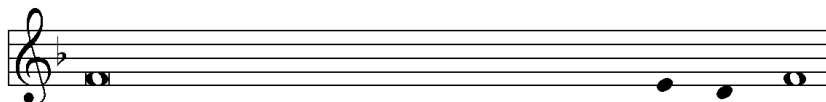
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Almighty and ever-living 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, our Newborn King! To Him, to You, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION



P 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, Son and the Holy Spirit †

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

THE RITE OF SENDING

- A And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *(Luke 2:20)*
- C **Joy to the world, the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king!**
- A Go in peace, serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jeff Daubenmire - Piano, Linda Hoch - Organ
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" - 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.

Remember in our prayers... Karen Vann, Diane Boone, Betty Lou Miliner, Janis Boughton, Grace Sima, Rod Rice, Don Slemmer, Jan Perry, John Moffett, Rick Arreguin, Bob Bower, Clarence Clapham, Janice Hardick, Joan Hassler, the family of Rodney Smith

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 sign the Pew Pad to let us know you were worshipping with us today.

Service Recording: The recorded 8:30am service will be available at www.grace43081.org around 11am.

NURSERY is closed Dec. 24, 25, and 31. Questions? Molly King, 614-882-3026 or m.king@grace43081.org.



2024 Giving Envelopes are available for pick up 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, Melissa Hodek, at melissa.hodek@gmail.com and it will be emailed to you.

The staff of Grace would like to express their sincere gratitude to the congregation for the generous staff Christmas gift! It is greatly appreciated by all and heartfelt! We look forward to serving the Grace family in the New Year and wish you blessings in 2024!

Thank you!

Molly King	Sarah Odum
Pastor Matt Cox	Jeff Daubennire
Linda Hoch	Maria Laderman
Jon Sweet	Debbie Yoho



Serving Today

OFFICIATING/ PREACHER	Rev. Dr. David M. Wendel
ASSISTING MINISTER	Molly King, Commissioned Lay Minister
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	Jeff Daubenmire
ORGANIST	Linda Hoch
SACRISTAN	Fred Pfanz
CANTOR	Steve Kile
LECTOR	Karen Holmes
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Steve Miller
USHERS	Joe Moleno, Brice Graves, Bev Grubb, Mike Grubb
GREETER	Bev and Mike Grubb
ALTAR GUILD <i>Team 4</i>	Vanessa Stewart, Marge Cepek, Kristi George, Nancy Kleberg, Barb and Tom Moser, JoAnn Slemmer
SOUND TECHNICIANS	Chris Banks, Dan George, Paul Grant, Eric Bush



This Week at Grace: December 24-31, 2023

- Dec. 24 **4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT/NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**
PR. DAVID WENDEL
10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent Service
2-4 pm Assemblée Chretienne La Parole
(Christian Assembly of the Word) (Sanctuary)
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- MON **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**
PR. DAVID WENDEL
10:00 am Christmas Day Service
Poinsettias can be picked up after the 10am service
—Office Closed—
- TUES —Office Closed—
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- WED.
- THURS 7:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting

FRI. 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SAT 9:30 am AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
8:00 pm AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Dec. 31 **1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

PR. DAVID WENDEL

8:30 am Worship Service

9:45 am Adult Learning

11:00 am Worship Service

2-4 pm Assemblée Chretienne La Parole
(Christian Assembly of the Word) (Sanctuary)

Acknowledgements

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Hymns:

“O Come, All Ye Faithful.” Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2. Music: attr. John Francis Wade. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Angels We Have Heard on High.” Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864. Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Silent Night, Holy Night.” Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” Text: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-1882. Tune: John Baptiste Calking, 1827-1905. ReClaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, Saint Paul, Minnesota, Sola Online Worship eResource.

“What Child Is This”. Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English ballad, 16th cent. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Away in a Manager.” Text: North American, anonymous, 19th cent. Music: North American, anonymous, 19th cent. Text and Tune: Public Domain. Arrangement: Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN, OneLicense.

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime.” Text: Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt. Music: French folk tune, c. 16th cent. Text and Tune: Public Domain. Arrangement: Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN, OneLicense.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”. Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice.” Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856. Text and Music: Public Domain.

“Joy to the World.” Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Text and Tune: Public Domain.

“Carol Prelude on *O Little Town of Bethlehem*” – arr. Peter Pindar Stearns, from *Ten Carol Preludes for Christmas for Organ* by Peter Pindar Stearns, ©1989 Malcolm Music

“Away in a Manger” – arr. Janet Linker, *Carols of the Christ Child: Seven Carol Settings for Organ Solo* by Janet Linker, ©1990 Beckenhorst Press

“Once in Royal David’s City/ IRBY” – arr. Robert Buckley Farlee, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas*, ©2001 Augsburg Fortress

“Divinum Mysterium” – arr. Craig Phillips, from *Joy to the World: Three Preludes for Christmas* by Craig Phillips, ©1996 Selah Publishing Co.

“Still, Still, Still” – arr. Paul Manz, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas, Series II*, ©1980 Birnamwood Publications

“On Christmas Night/ SUSSEX CAROL” – arr. Karl Osterland, from *Augsburg Organ Library: Christmas, Series II*, ©2019 Augsburg Fortress

“A Carol Fantasy” – arr. Franklin D. Ashdown, ©2002 The H.W. Gray Company

“Rejoice! Christ Is Born!” – arr. Larry Shackley, ©2007 Lorenz Publishing Company

“The First Nowell” – arr. Lani Smith, ©2010 Lorenz Publishing Company

“O Jesu Sweet, O Jesu Mild” – arr. Lani Smith, ©2009 Lorenz Publishing Company

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” – arr. Lani Smith, ©1983 Lorenz Publishing Company

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



GRACE EVANGELICAL
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<http://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 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.