

Worship Folder

Lessons & Carols



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Grace Lutheran Church

December 30 & 31, 2023

Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement

"We share God's love by welcoming all and making a Christ-like difference in our community and world."

Service of Lessons and Prayers

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)

GREETING

L: The peace of God that surpasses understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us take courage in times of uncertainty.

C: **God's light will surely shine.**

L: Let us follow wherever God leads.

C: **God's guidance is surely true.**

L: Let us receive the Lord anew.

C: **God's salvation has surely come.
Come, Lord, Jesus, come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

GATHERING SONG **"O, Come, All Ye Faithful"**

R283



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!

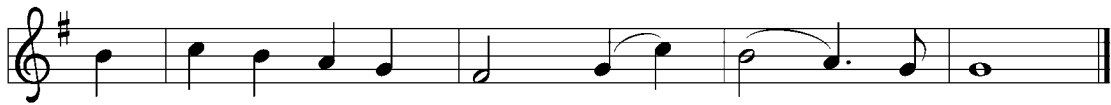


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade This selection is in the public domain.

(the assembly may be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to

proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing: I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up. so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

FIRST HYMN “Hark, the Glad Sound!”

R239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 This selection is in the public domain.

SECOND READING

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth:

SECOND HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

R279



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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 This selection is in the public domain.

THIRD READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear: but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth: he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain: for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

THIRD HYMN "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

R272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599 This selection is in the public domain.

FOURTH READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it: surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain. O Zion, herald of good tidings: lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear: say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him: his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd: he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

FOURTH HYMN "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

R290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual This selection is in the public domain.

FIFTH READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

FIFTH HYMN "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"**R282**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900 This selection is in the public domain.

SIXTH READING

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SIXTH HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High"

R289



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.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 This selection is in the public domain.
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

SEVENTH READING

John 1:1-14

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

and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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.

SEVENTH HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” R270



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!



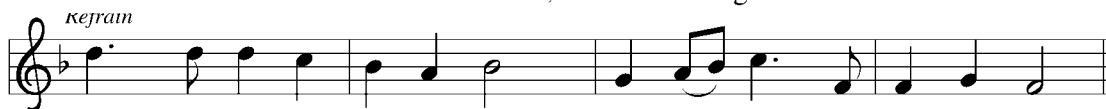
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.”
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with heal - ing in his wings.



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.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. This selection is in the public domain.
 Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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.

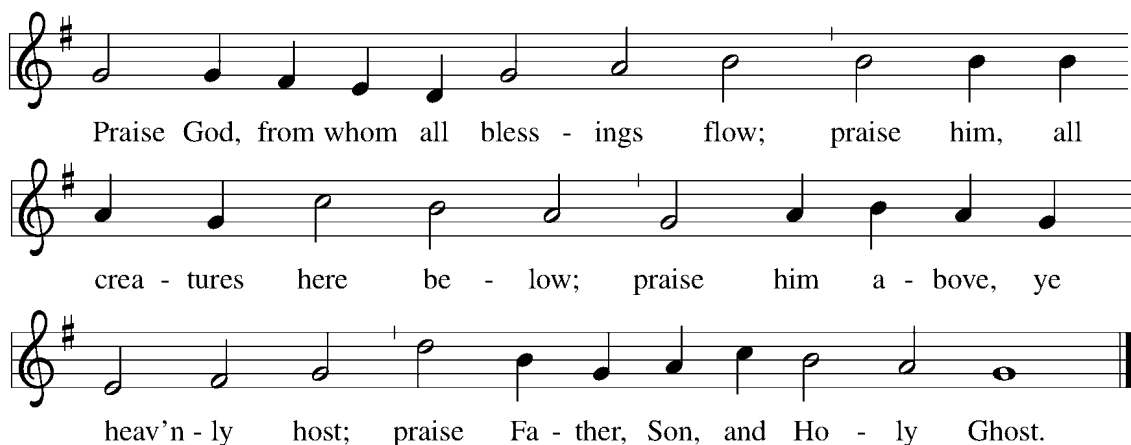
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering *(The assembly may be seated)*

DOXOLOGY *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable & sings as the gifts are brought forward)*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER *Unison*

Gracious and Loving God, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that his spirit may be born anew in our hearts this day and that we may joyfully welcome him to reign over us. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we, too, may sing with uplifted hearts. Glory to God, in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward all; through Jesu Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy...*(concluding)*...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

In the night in which he was betrayed...*(concluding)*...one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**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.**

P: Glory to God in the highest. Come to the table of peace.

HOLY COMMUNION- (all who desire to receive Christ's presence are welcome to the Eucharist.)



☩ 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 HYMNS

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

R275



- 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 First Noel”

R300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional This selection is in the public domain.

(The assembly stands as you are comfortable)

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...We give you thanks, O God,

C: **That in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG "Joy to the World"

R267



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



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872 This selection is in the public domain.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT GRACE LUTHERAN

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We are glad to have you here worshiping with us. For visitors, we would be glad to tell you more about Grace Lutheran and how we share God's love. Please leave the best way to contact you on the visitor sheets in the Sanctuary Narthex or the Office Lobby or use the bulletin and give it to an usher.

COFFEE HOUR AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Join us for a time of fellowship with coffee/tea/juice and treats in the Fellowship Hall off the Office Lobby after our Sunday worship.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bonnie Urlaub, Mary Barney-Bock, Eleanor Coddington, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Bonnie Cross, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Harry Kautz, Lisa Wooll, Kristin Berles, Don Barnard, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Vicki Piontkowski, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Gerald Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Larry & Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski, Kathy Rettell -- Annie Olsen, Reed Domrase, Brenda Donajkowski, Carl Smith, Rev. Laraine Sundin, Rev. Sarah Samuelson, Arlene Bettega, Judy Cattin, Sarah Cattin, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Kevin Carlson, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Arlie Prevost, Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, James Marculewicz, Herb Schiller, Ann Haske, Joanne Coughlin, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Emily Cross, and Joseph Hansen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Catholic Women of Alpena at All Saints Catholic Parish. Our Synod Prayer Partner for this week: Ascension Lutheran Church/Kentwood, Father Michael Wernick, and Bishop Craig Satterlee and Synod Staff.

UNDECORATE THE CHURCH - SUNDAY JANUARY 7TH

After we celebrate the coming of the Wisemen Sunday morning, help take down the decorations from the sanctuary and church after worship.

HELP NEEDED

Someone, or a Team, to keep our outside sign up to date with latest events and announcements. Every week or two to change letters. See Pastor Tom for more info.

QUILTERS NEWS

The Quilters gave 10 lap robes to the Blue Horizon Group Home for Developmentally Disabled Adults. Thank you to the Tuesday morning group for sharing your ministry of time and gifts with others.

ADULT CE FOR JANUARY 14

Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith - Methodist Traditions

Our Sunday morning class returns to exploring other Christian denominations by looking at the Methodist traditions. The United Methodist Church is a full communion partner with the ELCA. The UMC is currently undergoing a split with many churches leaving. We will explore the tradition and where they are today.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) PERSONAL CARE KITS

Once again we will be collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits. Please contribute what you are able to. Items needed for each kit (new items please):

- ◆ One light-weight bath-size towel (20"x40" to 52"x27"), dark color recommended
- ◆ 2-3 bath-size bars of soap totaling 8-9 oz, in original packaging (no mini-hotel size bars, please)
- ◆ One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap)
- ◆ One sturdy comb (no picks or fine toothed combs)
- ◆ One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mark the envelope "Personal Care Kits." If writing a check, please make it out to "Grace Lutheran Church."

Collection will take place throughout January 2024. Items may be placed in tall basket just outside the Fellowship Hall.

THANK YOU TO ALL - WHO HELPED MAKE CHRISTMAS EVE & WEEKEND SERVICES HAPPEN

Without all of you, we could not have done it for about 32 more people on Christmas Eve this year than last.

From decorators, bell choir, chancel choir, altar guild, ushers, greeters, acolyte & crucifer, lectors, communion assistants, livestream team who did their part, THANK YOU. To those who stepped up and pitched in where needed. THANK YOU. To those who filled in at the last minute, THANK YOU. To the staff who also had extra work for the services on the weekend, THANK YOU. Pastor Tom

THANK YOU - FROM PASTOR TOM

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift that you gave me. It is special and appreciated. I am thinking of some special photography projects this year that it will help make possible. Again, thank you.

ALTAR GUILD HELP NEEDED

We are in need of help on Sunday mornings in January and February for Altar Guild clean up following our morning service. If you are able to help with this please contact the church office. Thanks!

NEW CHURCH ACCOMPANIST FOR ORGAN AND/OR PIANO

We have reposted the announcement on our Facebook page. **Your specifically "sharing" the post, beyond just liking, will spread the word more online.** Thank you.

SUNDAY WORSHIP LIVESTREAMED AND RECORDED

Our Sunday worship service is livestreamed, shown on the internet, as it is happening and recorded for viewing online later. People in the sanctuary attending the Sunday service may be seen as part of the livestream and recording.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

Sunday - 31st

9:00 am Sunday School
9:00 am Choir Practice
9:30 am **Worship**

Monday - 1st

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday - 2nd

8am-noon Church Office Open
9:00 am Sewing/Quilting
11:00 am Pastors Text Study

Wednesday - 3rd

8am-noon Church Office Open
6:00 pm Bells

Thursday - 4th

8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Friday - 5th

8am-noon Church Office Open
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

Saturday - 6th

5:30 pm **Worship**

**Large print worship folders
& hearing assistance devices
are available from ushers**

SERVING DECEMBER 30/31

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director..... Claire Schreiber
Recorded Accompaniment..Kat Tomaszewski
Comm. Asst. . Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Ushers..... Gary & Kay Grove, Rick Engstrom,
Cindy Domrase (Saturday)
Greeters Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Altar Guild Gentry Family
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan
Charter, Don LaBarre
Counters..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson,
Darlene Freel
Coffee HourAnne Gentry, Vicki Cripps

SERVING JANUARY 6/7

Ministers God's People
Pastor Rev. Tom Orth
Music Director..... Claire Schreiber
Recorded Accompaniment..Kat Tomaszewski
Lector Sharon Engstrom
Communion Asst... Joe Gentry, Wayne Lewis
Ushers..... Wayne & Chris Christopherson
Greeters Bill & Nancy Platt
Altar Guild Arlis St. Charles (Set Up)
Livestream Team Dawn Anderson, Jan
Charter, Don LaBarre
Counters..... Gary & Kay Grove
Coffee Hour Joel & Cindy Suszek

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707

Phone: Office 989-354-2640

Web Site: www.gracelutheran-alpena.org

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