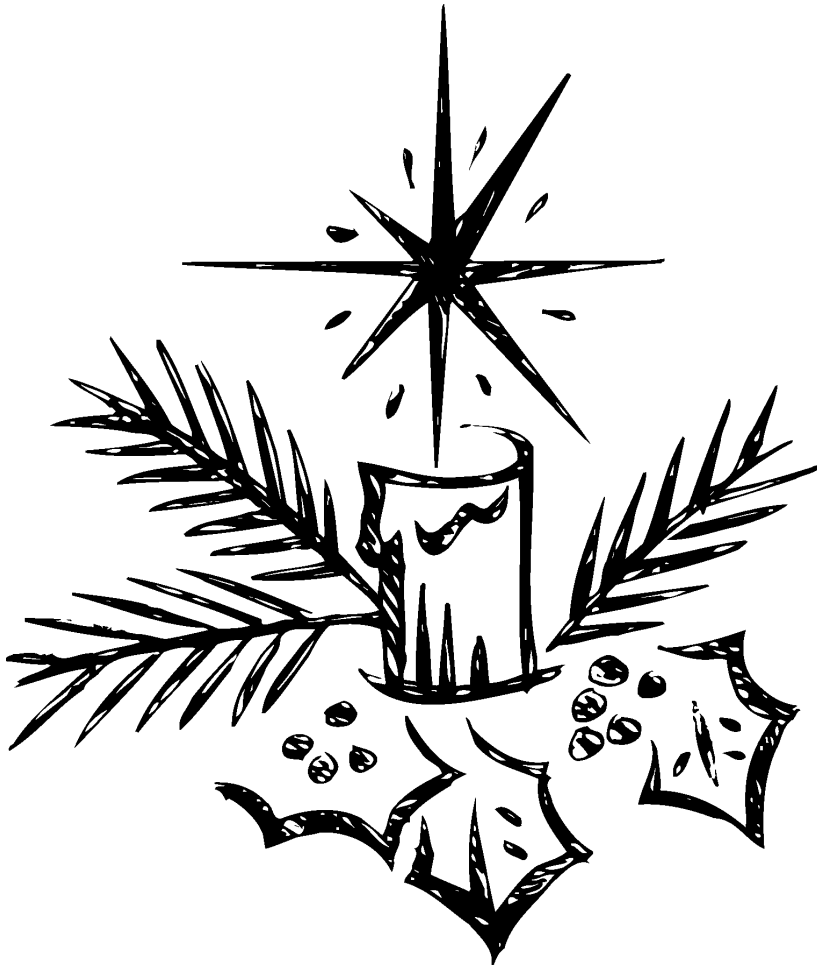


# *Grace Lutheran Worship Folder*

*December 13 & 14, 2025*



**Watch worship online - connect through [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

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# *Grace Lutheran Church*

## **Grace Lutheran's Purpose Statement**

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

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### **WELCOME/PRELUDE**

#### **GATHERING**

*(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)*

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + We are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C: Amen.**

#### **GATHERING HYMN**

**"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"**

**R242**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

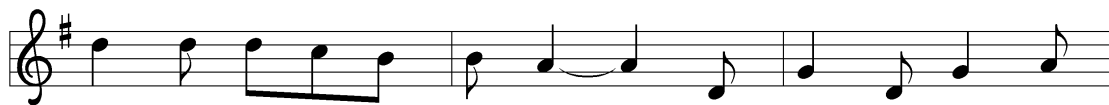
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1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

### ADVENT CANDLE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (sing twice) R240



3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## GREETING

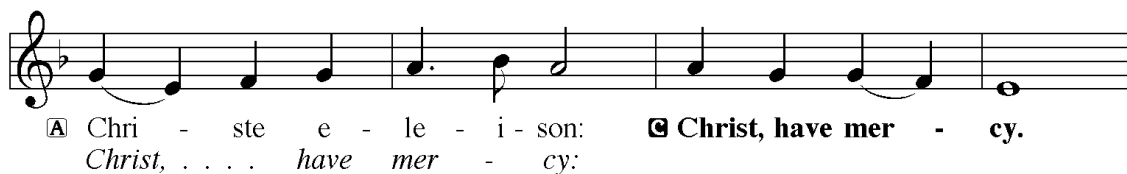
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

# HYMN OF PRAISE



**☐** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**☐** Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**☐** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**☐** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the





P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Isaiah 35:1-10

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.]] <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 146:5-10**

*The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **James 5:7-10**

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*(The assembly stands as they are comfortable for the Gospel)*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

### Matthew 11:2-11

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**P:** The Gospel of Our Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## HOMILY

(The assembly stands as they are comfortable)

# HYMN OF THE DAY “Christ, Be Our Light”

R715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## 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.**

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*(Response after each petition)*

**P:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** receive our prayer.

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *(the assembly stands as they are comfortable and sings as the gifts are brought forward)*



**Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of**



**bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were**



**sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.**



**Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we**



P: Let us pray...Nourishing God,

**C: you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

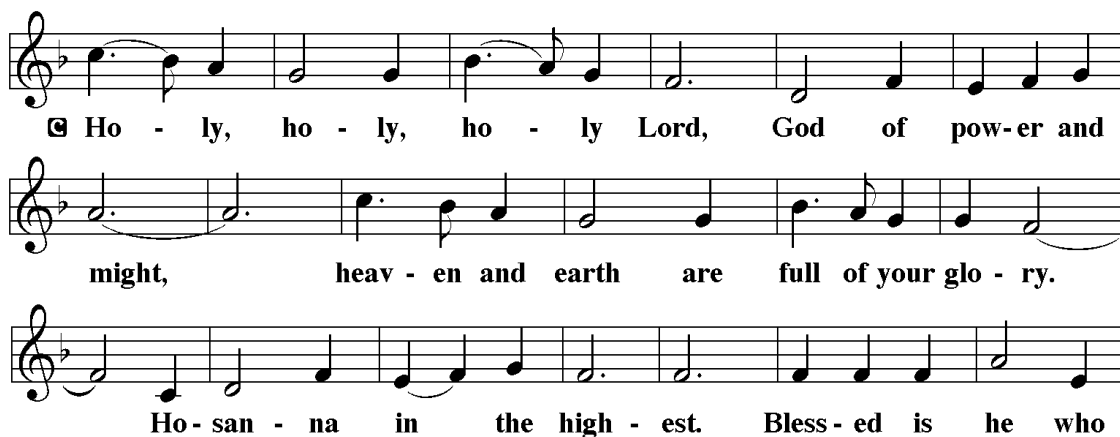
P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...(concluding)...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

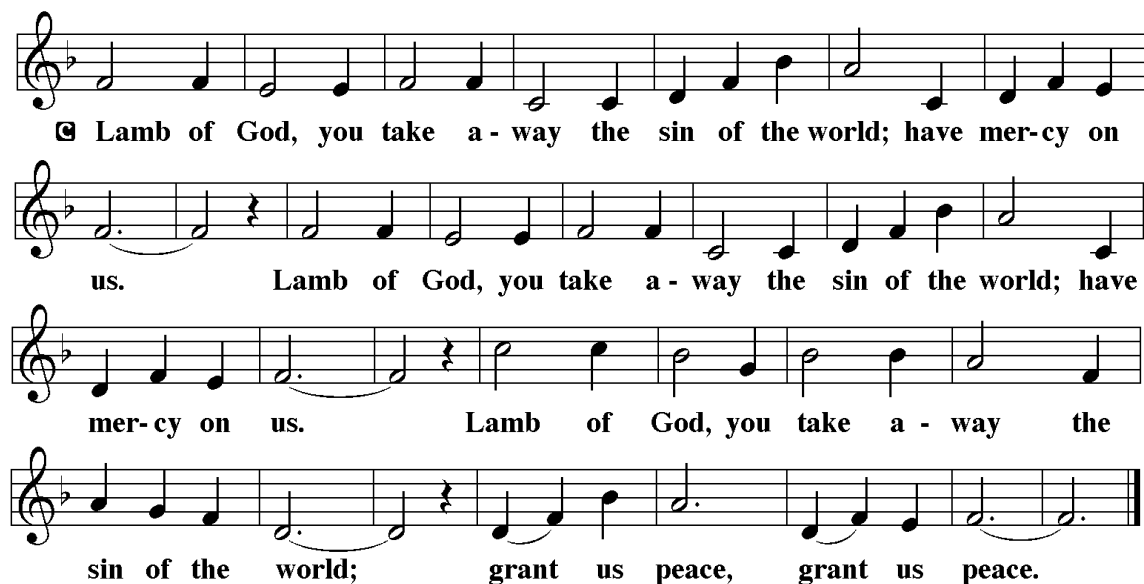
P: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

## HOLY COMMUNION

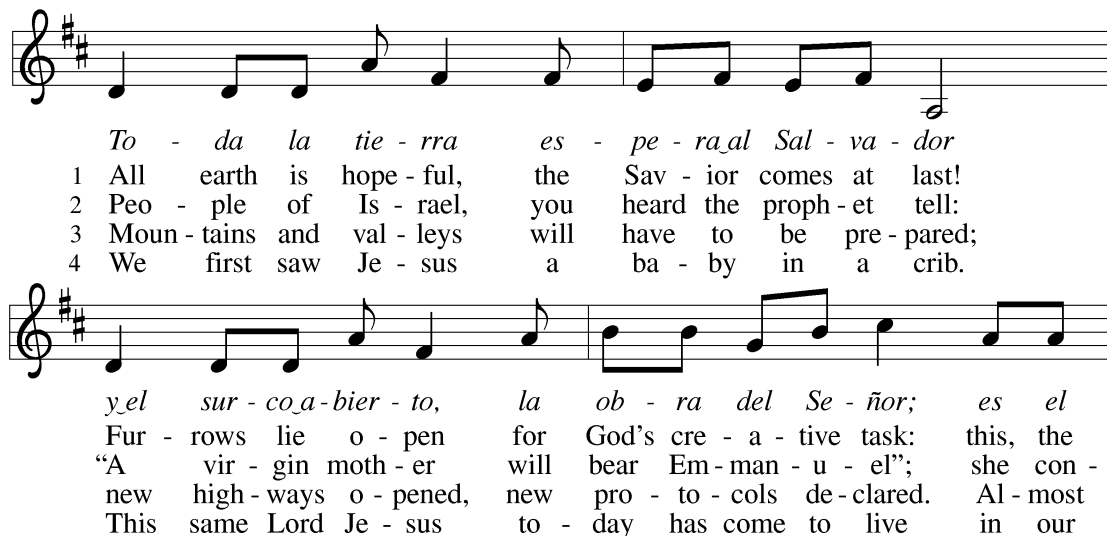
*(All who desire to receive Christ's presence in bread and wine are welcome to participate in the Eucharist)*



☒ 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 HYMN "All Earth Is Hopeful"

R266



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra\_al Sal - va - dor  
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.  
y\_el sur - co\_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour-age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Permission to reprint/stream this music obtained from OneLicense #A-708784.  
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé  
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

*(the assembly stands as they are comfortable)*

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

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us pray...God our host,

**C: at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P:** May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C: Amen.**



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol

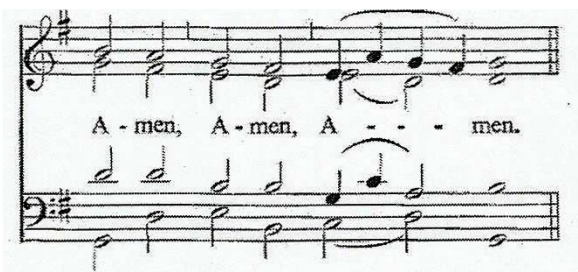
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**P:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



## 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 Cross, Anna Lewis, Darlene Freel, Hope Kamyszek, Bill Whitscell, Joanne Kindt, Sandy Malaski, Janet Chroninger, Elfie Jahnke, Budd & Marlene Jobson, Meredith Smith, Robert Larsen, Elaine Hatch, Scott Lancaster, Dorothy Hansen, Emma Nelson, Michele Amelotte, Jim Malaski -- Maria Shelton, Paul Kroll, Jim Marquardt, Aggie Jakubiak, Jerry McConnell, Lisa Creger, Lysie, Becky & Dante, Lyle Beck, Candy & Tom Laughlin, Margaret Kamyszek, Michelle, Joan Vanover, Paige Lancewicz, Randy Thiem, Mychele Allmacher, Deborah Al-Duwaisan, Daphne Flack, Linda, Kaye Harry, Sandra Beck, Laura Fettes (Don Cross' granddaughter), Donna Kendziorski, Jeff Kendziorski, Geraldine Rhoads, Herb Schiller, Jimmy Lappan, Donna Hatch, Jordyn, Maggie, Joseph Hansen and the family of Fr. Emmanuel Finbarr, All Saints Catholic Parish, whose sister and nieces have been kidnapped during the conflict in Nigeria. Military: Will Stafford (Rich & Sherie McTaggart's grandson), Amelia Berles - pilot training, and Michael Herrmann, US Air Force.

*Our prayer list is redone each month. If you, or a family member, would like to continue on the prayer list, please call the office (354-2640).*

## **PRAYER PARTNERS**

From the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, this weekend we pray for the Prayer Group at Trinity Episcopal Church. Our Synod Prayer Partners for this week: Christ Lutheran/Michigan Center, Rev. Robert Martin; and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas and Synod Staff.

## **PRAYER LETTERS**

***Please sign*** the prayer letter(s) each week that we send out telling other churches and ministries they have been included in our prayers. Fill the page with our names. The letter(s) are on the podium by the table in the Office Lobby.

## **SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN PHOTOS**

Send in photos of the family creche nativity you set up, how you decorate your tree or around the house. We will put them in a "Life of Grace" video to share with others. Send them to Peggy at [officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org). Thanks.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING DECEMBER 14**

You are invited to join in Christmas caroling around the community! There will be lunch provided after church on Sunday, December 14th and caroling will begin at 11:30am. We will be going to assisted living homes as well as homes of some of our members. Please join in the fun!

## **RUTH CIRCLE POTLUCK DECEMBER 17**

The Ruth Circle will be meeting at 12 pm on Wednesday, December 17, for a potluck lunch. All women of the church are welcome!

## **THERE IS ONLY 1 BALLOON REMAINING!**

Balloon No. 2 has touched the table. Get your guesses in for when No. 5 comes down.  
**Last day to enter will be December 14th.**

## **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**

Have you changed your email address? Dropped your landline phone, and only use your cell? **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** let the office know so we can be in touch with you. We've had trouble reaching some people recently.

## **REMEMBERING OUR CHILDREN CANDLE LIGHTING**

**6:30 p.m. Sunday, December 14 ~ Grace Lutheran Church**

Please join us as we celebrate the life and memory of our children, of any age, that have passed. Questions: Karen 989.619.7728 or Polly 989.356.0849. Please see poster on bulletin board for more information.

## **BESSER MALE CHORUS CONCERT**

The Besser Male Chorus of Alpena will present "A Christmas Festival of Carols" on Wednesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Alpena (167 S. Ripley Blvd.), and again on Sunday, December 14 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (124 E. Washington Ave.). There is no admission charge; however, a free-will offering will be gratefully accepted.

## **BAKE SALE THANKS**

Thanks to everyone who helped, baked and donated items to our Bake Sale. It made our Bake Sale a great success. With God's blessing and many hands we made \$1,571. Thanks to everyone. -- Ruth Circle

## **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.

## **LITTLE FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU**

We are truly blessed by the generosity shown toward our Little Food Pantry. Sincere thanks to the Lions Club for their donation of bags of potatoes; to Besser School and the bus team for delivering more than 1,000 non-perishable items; to the Alpena Democratic Party for providing two carloads of food; and to Sunrise Veterinary Clinic for their many contributions. Several weeks ago, we also received a generous monetary donation from Hunters Harvest. These are just the donations we know about. Many others are given anonymously, and we are grateful for every single one. Your kindness helps fight food insecurity in our community. Thank you!

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!**

A heartfelt thank you to Eleanor Coddington for creating the beautiful bows that adorn our Christmas decorations. Thanks as well to everyone who helped decorate on Sunday, November 30. Our church looks wonderful as we enter the season of Advent and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

## **THANK YOU**

I am now about 4-1/2 weeks out from my knee replacement surgery and I am slowly recovering. It's been a bit tough since I had the hip surgery on the same leg 10 weeks prior, but I am getting there. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and positive thoughts. I especially appreciated the lovely card that I received with kind get-well wishes from several of you. I feel so blessed to be part of the Grace Lutheran family! God's blessings to all! -- Anna Lewis

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

If you're a Thrivent member, you may have access to two powerful resources that can amplify your support for ministry: **Thrivent Choice Dollars** and **Thrivent Action Teams**.

Eligible Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars based on their membership, insurance premiums, and product holdings. These dollars can be directed to our Grace Lutheran Congregation at no additional cost to you. *Members may direct Choice Dollars quarterly throughout the year, or make a one-time designation before March 31, 2026, to allocate all Choice Dollars earned in 2025.*

Thrivent members can also apply year-round for Thrivent Action Team grants, which provide \$250 in seed money to support volunteer projects that address community needs. If you are a Thrivent member and would be willing to support Grace Lutheran's volunteer efforts by applying for an Action Team grant, please let us know.

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Can be found on our website at [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org/2025-birthdays](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org/2025-birthdays)

## **HAPPENING THIS WEEK!**

### **Sunday – 14th**

8:50 am Choir Practice  
9:00 am Sunday School  
**9:30 am Worship**  
11:30 am Christmas Caroling  
6:30 pm Remembering Our  
Children Candle Lighting

### **Monday - 15th**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

### **Tuesday - 16th**

8am-noon Church Office Open  
9:00 am Sewing/Quilting  
11:00 am Pastors Text Study -  
Lounge  
6:15 pm Friends of Animal  
Control - Hall

### **Wednesday - 17th**

8am-noon Church Office Open  
12:00 pm Ruth Circle - Hall  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice

### **Thursday - 18th**

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

### **Friday - 19th**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
8am-2pm Kitchen Reserved

### **Saturday - 20th**

**5:00 pm Worship**

## **SERVING DECEMBER 13/14**

**Ministers** ..... God's People  
**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth  
**Music Director** ..... Claire Witt  
**Recorded Accompaniment** ..... Kat Tomaszewski  
**Comm. Asst.** ..... Joe Gentry, Stephanie Suszek,  
Cindy Domrase  
**Lector** ..... Anna Lewis  
**Ushers** ..... Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske  
Wayne Lewis (Saturday)  
**Greeters** ..... Joel & Cindy Suszek  
**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry Family  
**Livestream Team** ..... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,  
Don LaBarre, Alex Struble  
**Counters** ..... Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek,  
Stephanie Suszek  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Ruby Haske & Family

## **SERVING DECEMBER 20/21**

**Ministers** ..... God's People  
**Pastor** ..... Rev. Tom Orth  
**Music Director** ..... Claire Witt  
**Recorded Accompaniment** ..... Kat Tomaszewski  
**Comm. Asst.** ..... Joe Gentry, Stephanie Suszek,  
Cindy Domrase  
**Lector** ..... Bob Greene  
**Ushers** ..... Matt, Everett & Olivia Haske  
Wayne Lewis (Saturday)  
**Greeters** ..... Dawn Anderson, Pat Schultz,  
Bruno Hirzel  
**Altar Guild** ..... Gentry Family  
**Livestream Team** ..... Dawn Anderson, Jan Charter,  
Don LaBarre, Alex Struble  
**Counters** ..... Cheryl Lang, Cindy Suszek,  
Stephanie Suszek  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Jeff & Sandy Welch

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

**GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707**

**Phone: Office 989-354-2640**

**Web Site: [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

**Give online at [www.gracelutheran-alpena.org](http://www.gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

**Pastor: Rev. Thomas W. Orth**

**Pastor's Home 989-356-8729 Pastor's Cell Phone 989-916-8759**

**E-mail:**

**[pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:pastor@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

**[officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org](mailto:officemanager@gracelutheran-alpena.org)**

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