

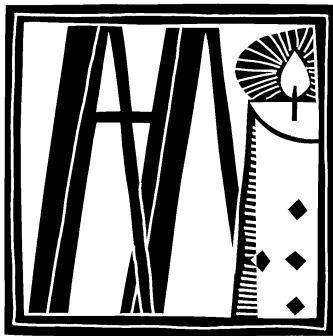


GRACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Year's Eve
December 31, 2020
7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we hear God's holy Word. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve. We worship online in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and encourage you to follow along in this document as you also watch or listen to the live stream of our service. May the Lord bless our worship this day.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

The events that have unfolded in our nation in recent months have reawakened us to the deep divides that still exist within our country. Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Fugue in E-flat Major (“St. Anne”), BWV 552b

Johann Sebastian Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN: Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year

(green) LBW #181



1 Greet now the swift - ly chang - ing year with
 2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God and
 3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; this
 4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
 how he shed his in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
 name of names for us he bore. Re - joice! Re - joice! With
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re - joice! With



thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.

5 With him as Lord to lead our way
 in want and in prosperity,
 what need we fear in earth or space
 in this new year of grace!

6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and peace on earth!" the angels cry.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 another year of grace.

7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
 To all our pleas incline your ear;
 upon our lives rich blessing trace
 in this new year of grace.

Text: Slovak; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: ROK NOVY, Závorka, *Kancional*, 1602

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time,
and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love.

Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work,
and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever—the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1–13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹What gain have the workers from their toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with.

¹¹He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; ¹³moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: How exalted is your name in all the world!

- L** O | Lord our Lord,*
 how exalted is your name in | all the world!
- C** **Out of the mouths of in- | fants and children***
your majesty is praised a- | bove the heavens.
- L** You have set up a stronghold against your | adversaries,*
 to quell the enemy and | the avenger.
- C** **When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,***
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
- L** what is man that you should be mind- | ful of him,*
 the son of man that you should | seek him out?
- C** **You have made him but little lower | than the angels;***
you adorn him with glo- | ry and honor;
- L** you give him mastery over the works | of your hands;*
 you put all things un- | der his feet:
- C** **all | sheep and oxen,***
even the wild beasts | of the field,
- L** the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,*
 and whatsoever walks in the paths | of the sea.
- C** **O | Lord our Lord,***
how exalted is your name in | all the world!



SECOND READING: Revelation 21:1–6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” ⁵

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

L The Word of the Lord.

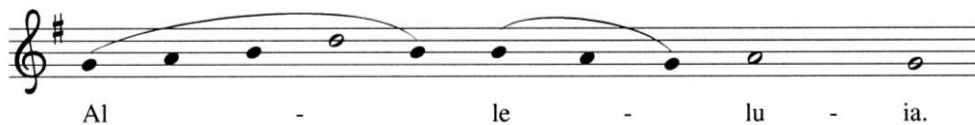
C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE: Psalm 90:1

Carl Schalk

Choir Alleluia.

C REFRAIN (*below*)



Choir Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Alleluia!

C REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31–46

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

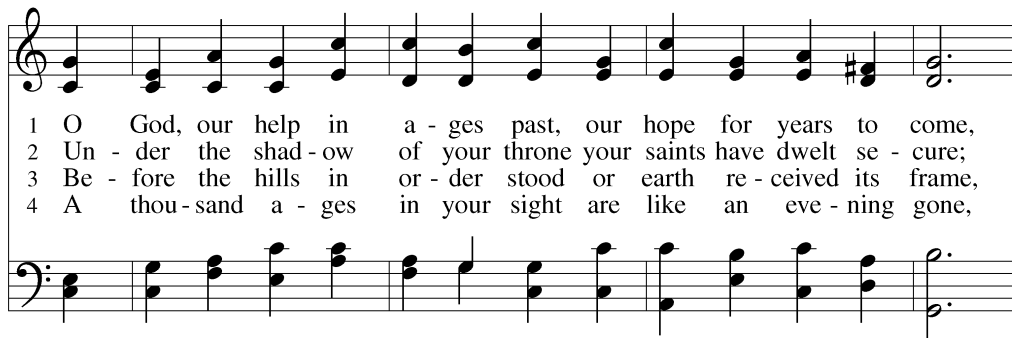
SERMON

Pastor Dave Lyle
Matthew 25:31–46

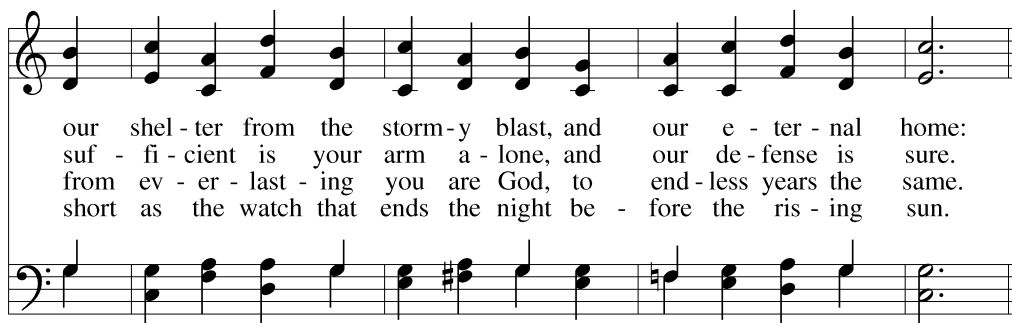


HYMN OF THE DAY: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

(green) LBW #320



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

NICENE CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

ANTHEM: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Mark Shepperd

Infant holy, infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
Bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, alt.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- A** Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

- P** Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

(green) LBW #282

1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow the wood - land, field,
 2 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, now spread your wings
 3 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, for God this night

and mead - ow— the world in slum - ber lies. But you, my heart,
 a - bove me and shield me from a - larm. Though e - vil would
 will sure - ly from per - il guard your heads. Sweet slum - ber may

a - wak - ing and prayer and mu - sic mak - ing:
 as - sail me, your mer - cy will not fail me;
 God send you; the an - gel hosts at - tend you

let praise to your cre - a - tor rise.
 I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.
 and through the night watch o'er your beds.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

Donald Busarow

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
Julie Hinz, assisting minister
Jeremy Zimmer, organist
Christa Krout, flutist
Dan Krout, soloist
Eunice Eifert, videographer
Justin Martin, sound board operator

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Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate.

NAME(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail,
Sunday Is Coming.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me
via (check one) Phone or E-mail.

**GRACE
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& SCHOOL**

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gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Jeremy Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Pat Gulik, Parish Nurse
Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
Rich Brooks, Facilities Manager