



The Nativity of Our Lord  
Christmas Day  
December 25, 2020  
10:00 a.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:** Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Once Again My Heart Rejoices

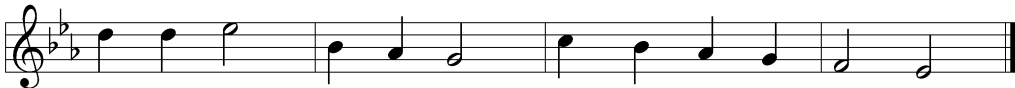
*(green)* **LBW #46**



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es as I hear, far and near,  
2 Hark! A voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, does en - treat,  
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and small,



sweet - est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born" their choirs are sing - ing,  
"Flee from woe and dan - ger; come and see; from all that grieves you  
kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is yearn - ing;



till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.  
Music: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662




## APOSTOLIC GREETING

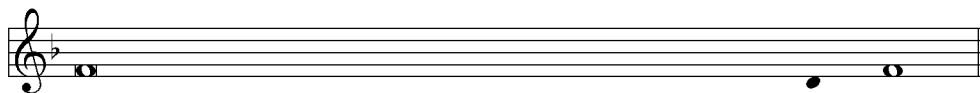
**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.


## KYRIE



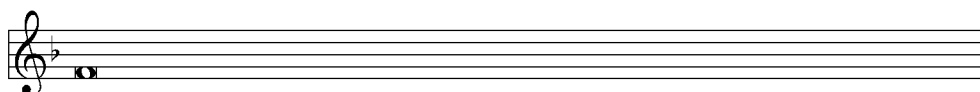
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



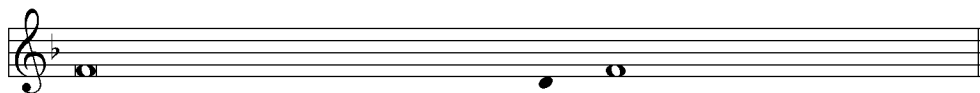
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



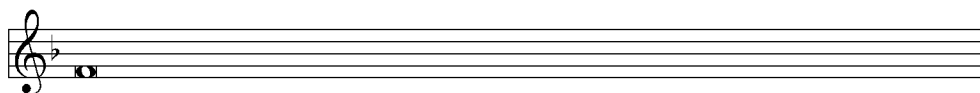
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



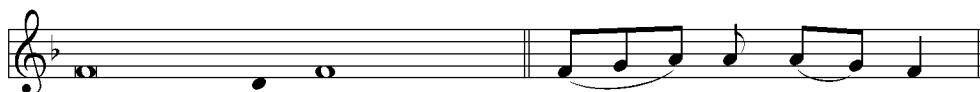
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



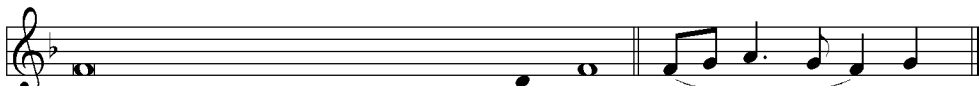
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra- cious Lord. ☐ A - - men

**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.

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

**C** Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” <sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 98

ANTIPHON: All of the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Robert Hobby

**L** Sing to the Lord | a new song,\*  
for he has done | marvelous things.

**C** With his right hand and his | holy arm\*  
has he won for him- | self the victory.

**L** The Lord has made | known his victory,\*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.

**C** He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,\*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

**L** Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;\*  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

**C** Sing to the LORD | with the harp,\*  
with the harp and the | voice of song.

- ℣ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn\*  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- ☩ **Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,\*  
the lands and those who | dwell therein.**
- ℣ Let the rivers | clap their hands,\*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to | judge the earth.
- ☩ **In righteousness shall he | judge the world\*  
and the peo- | ples with equity.**

**SECOND READING:** Hebrews 1:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

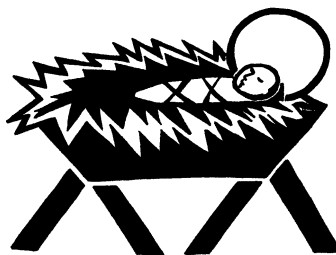
When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? <sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” <sup>7</sup>Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.” <sup>8</sup>But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” <sup>10</sup>And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; <sup>11</sup>they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; <sup>12</sup>like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

- ℣ The Word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL VERSE:** Galatians 4:4

Richard Hillert

Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son. Alleluia.



## HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

### **G** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

### **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Troy E. Medlin

### HYMN OF THE DAY: Of the Father's Love Begotten

*(green)* **LBW #42**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing





he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

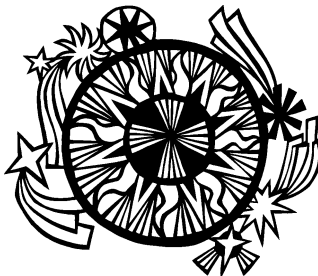


have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, mode V, 13th cent.



## NICENE CREED

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

☛ 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.

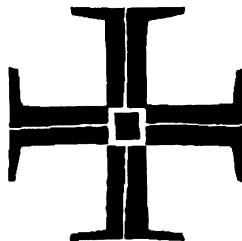
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

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.



Mary, Joseph, huddle here,  
Starburst shines both bright and clear.  
Child who brings delight and fear,  
Glory in the highest!

Gently touch this tiny face,  
Newborn bearing ageless grace,  
Cosmic wonder, lowly place,  
Glory in the highest!

Serf and shepherd share the sight  
Glistening in this holy night,  
From crude barn such holy light,  
Glory in the highest!

All toward manger gently bending,  
Angel choir and cow's voice blending,  
God to us a baby sending.  
Glory in the highest!

Joseph Robinson

## **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**

- L** 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: Let Our Gladness Have No End

*(green)* **LBW #57**



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
2 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!  
3 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah! On this day God  
he, our ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!



gave us Christ, his Son, to save us; Christ, his Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown

Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE: Let Our Gladness Have No End

Michael D. Costello

## LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister  
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister  
The Rev. Karl Reko, assisting minister  
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor  
Karen Brunssen, mezzo soprano  
Kim Brunssen, baritone  
Eunice Eifert, videographer  
Julie Hinz, sound board operator

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Cover photo by Jonathan Hillert.

# 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  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305  
Phone: (708) 366-6900  
Fax: (708) 366-0966  
[www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org)  
[gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto: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