

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHER AN 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.

As We Gather

Long ago, God had made a promise to the newly crowned King David: "Your throne shall be established forever." Within four hundred years, the covenant seemed bankrupt. God's promises, however, do not depend on our sight or understanding. So it is that after another 600 years have passed, the angel comes to Mary with words of restoration. She, a virgin, will bear a son who will reclaim David's throne. Mary, by grace and with boldness, believes the angel. So much so that she bursts into song! Mary sees her people's time of suffering coming to an end. She sings of the mighty cast down from their thrones, for in her Son's Kingdom there is only room for one King. God has remembered the promise. The time of tyrants is now over. With Mary, let us magnify the Lord!

+ GATHERING +

Prelude: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Gregory M. Pysh

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- @ Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

 Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- @ Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

- **P** Gracious God,
- **a** have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

- P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- @ Amen.



Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.



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.
- **a** And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

VOLUNTARY: Advent Hope arr. Derek Hakes

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Now when [David] the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

CANTICLE: Magnificat

ANTIPHON: You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly

Paul Bouman

- L My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord;* my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
- **G** for he has | looked with favor* on his | lowly servant.
- ☐ From this day all | generations* will | call me blessed;
- **G** The Almighty has done great | things for me,* and holy | is his name.
- L He has mercy on | those who fear him* in every | generation.
- **G** He has shown the strength | of his arm;* he has scattered the proud in | their conceit.
- Let He has cast down the mighty | from their thrones,* and has lifted | up the lowly.
- **Q** He has filled the hungry | with good things,* and the rich he has sent | away empty.
- Let He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,* for he has remembered his prom- | ise of mercy,
- **G** the promise he made | to our forebears,* to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL VERSE: Luke 1:38 John Ferguson

L Alleluia. Alleluia.

G REFRAIN (below)



- Let it be with me, according to your word.
- **G** REFRAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

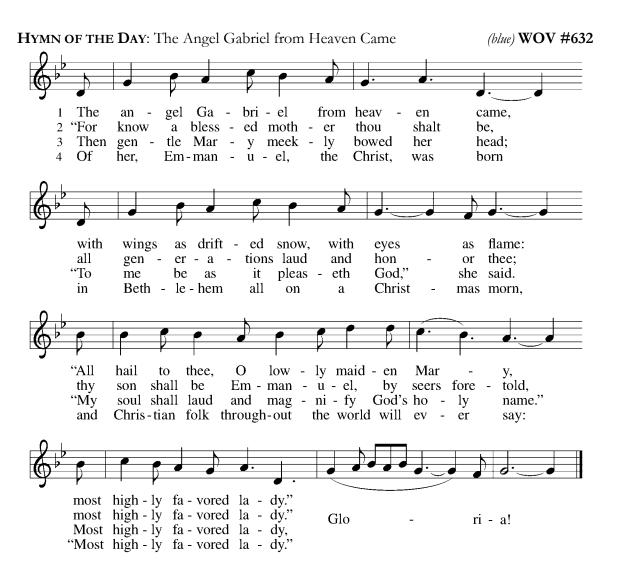
P The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: Musical Thrones

Pastor David. R. Lyle Luke 1:26–38, 46b-55



Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

NICENE CREED

- P 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.

ANTHEM: Quia Respexit, from *Magnificat*, BWV 243

Johann Sebastian Bach

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae.

For he has regarded the lowliness of his servant.

Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent.

Behold, from henceforth, I shall be called blessed.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- **A** Lord, in your mercy,
- **@** 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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

forever and ever. Amen.

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
 - 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,

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- ₱ Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- @ Amen.



DISMISSAL.

- **A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Advent Tidings arr. Michael Akers

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister
The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister
Jo-Ellyn Dorsey Swanson, assisting minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Ngaire Whiteside-Bull, soprano
Christine Janzow Phillips, oboe d'amore
Grace Bells
Lisa Wolfanger, director
Al Swanson, videographer
Justin Martin, sound board operator

Copyright Acknowledgments

Portions of this liturgy reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright © 1978 by Augsburg Fortress, *With One Voice*, copyright © 1995 by Augsburg Fortress, and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright © 2006 by Augsburg Fortress. Graphics and Sending Hymn reprinted from *Sundaysandseasons.com*. All rights reserved. All of the above printed and live streamed by permission of Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #SAS018423.

Readings come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

LET US PRAY...

Those who are sick and recovering from illness

Rose Mary Anderson Annalise Balock Cathy Barker Ruth and Jim Barker Anne-Marie Bogdan Ed Borg Marilyn Gotsch

Carl and Donna Gruendler David Gruendler Kathy Haves Patricia Herendeen Ioan Koerber Jerry Koenig Margaret Kruse

Beth Smoots McClanahan Karen McMahon Jennifer Murtoff Paul Nelson Tim Sandvoss Marge Sanger

Carl Schalk Ron Serpico Madison Staples Rich and Bonnie Stasack

Felipe Altamirano (friend of Cathy and Paul Schnittker)

Valerie Anderson (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Bob Andree (friend of Deb Maxwell)

Vera Leora Barnett (friend of Paul Eichwedel)

James Beglin (cousin of Cathy Schnittker)

Karen Berglund (friend of Carol Stanger) Ira Birnbaum (friend of Sandy and David Lentz)

Stephanie Bogue and Elva (friends of Pat Anderson)

Mike and Beth Bullock (parents of Keith Bullock)

Iim Cozzi (friend of Diana Sicuro)

Linda DeMeyere (friend of Randy and Ellie Schnack)

Peggy Dickenson (mother of Paul Eichwedel)

Dorcas Doering (sister of Carol Prinz) Jane Duda (friend of Karen Eckstein)

David Eastman and family (brother of Pat Anderson)

Patti and Neal Enslin (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Joan Fudala (mother of Greg Fudala) Ray Garmatz (son of Margaret Garmatz)

Stacy Gibb and family (friends of Kristin Vogen)

Mike Guss (friend of Lance and Stephanie Wilkening)

Jerry Haase (friend of Mary Margaret Bartley & Stewart Clarke)

Jill Hanssen (niece of Ann Mason) **Sue Heinze** (sister of Pat Gulik)

Harry Heppner (brother of Ken Heppner) John Hunt (friend of Ken and Marilyn Heppner)

Mia Rose Jones (granddaughter of John and Loretta Lattyak)

Doug Kelner (friend of Irmgard and Al Swanson)

Don Kersten (brother of Phyllis Kersten)

Sally Kindsfater (sister of Mary Jane Endicott) Andrew Korcek (friend of Eunice Spurgat)

Ron and Jeanette Koski (parents of Jill Koski)

George Kozuchowski (friend of Timothy Douma)

Arnold Krubsack (brother of Irmgard Swanson)

Kathryn Krubsack (niece of Irmgard Swanson) Marty Krueger (cousin of Irmgard Swanson)

Maxx Kusper and family (friends of Deb Maxwell)

John Larson (father of Morgan Anderson)

Maria Laskowski (friend of Joe Modrich)

Lily (friend of Carrie Douma)

Karen Luebbe (mother of Jenny, sister of Stan Reddel) Joyce and John Lunde (friends of Susan Messerli) Kari Lyle (sister-in-law of Dave and Erika Lyle)

Jim Maggio (brother of Joe Maggio) Jane Martin (mother of Justin Martin) Anne Matthys (mother of Susan Curran)

Leone, Gracie, and Brian Maxwell (cousins of Tom and Deb

Maxwell)

Pat Scala

Denny McClerren (cousin of Stephanie Wilkening) Christopher Miller (friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska)

Monika Nash (daughter of Don and Verna Offermann)

Joan Nelson (mother of Julie Modrich)

Mary Kay Olson (friend of Paul and Cindy Koester)

Rosie Parker (mother of Cameron Parker)

Jacob Pletan (great-nephew of Ruth Rehwaldt & Gick Schmidt)

James Powers (friend of Al Swanson)

Susan Prather (cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott)

Zach & Ellie Radosevich (grandchildren of Ginny & Frank Swaba)

Phillip Rice III (friend of Pat Anderson) Ronald Riley (friend of Al Swanson)

John Rohleder (friend of Sandy Grams)

Florence Saeger (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Shirley Moyers Schnack (sister-in-law of Randy Schnack)

John Schuurman (friend of Timothy Douma) Lindsay Shaner (brother of Bob Shaner)

Mary Lu Shipstad (friend of Marilyn Heppner)

Ken and Lori Shoup (friends of Marilyn Heppner)

Zina and Huxley Shoup (friends of Marilyn and Ken Heppner)

Ruth Soppet (friend of Bob and Kathryn Jandeska) Nancy Stelling (friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten)

Lee Stephens (brother of Tony)

Jennifer Sylvester (daughter of Janet Sylvester)

Martin A. Thieme (brother of Susan Franzone)

Jan Thomson (sister-in-law of Christine Phillips)

Donald Tremper (brother of Virginia Walker)

Wes Van Dell (brother of Emily Hartung)

Rev. Mark Van Scharrel (friend of Karl and Ruth Reko)

Mary Lou and Ron Wagoner (sister and brother-in-law of Stan Reddel)

Brian Walden (relative of Pat Gulik)

Verna Walsh (aunt of Dan and Deanna Marotz)

Sonja Wandro (sister of Al Swanson)

Bob Weaver (husband of Gretchen)

Lucy White (friend of Mary Beth Logas) Fr. Dennis Woerter (friend of Grace E. Marotz)

Elise Wojack (niece of Pat Gulik) Kathie Wolff (friend of Tim Duoma)

Randi Woodworth (sister of Tammy Bretscher)

Veronica Zurowski (mother of Tom)

Benevolence ministries

Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic

For those who mourn

Gene Furstenau (friend of Hans Dumpys)
Vince Casillo (friend of Deborah Schmidt-Rogers)
Dr. Herbert Greenlee (former Grace member)
Darold McCalla (friend of Kristin Vogen)

Those serving in the armed services

Timothy Berghaus (grandson of Len and Judy Berghaus)
Kevin Buss (nephew of Christa Krout)
Reid Beveridge (son-in-law of the Schnacks)
David Danford (son of John and Karen)
E. Michael Garcia Goetting (son of Mary Goetting)
Matthew Garmatz (grandson of Margaret Garmatz)
Bradley Larson (cousin of Rhea Sprecher)

Those in the foreign service

Julie Kmet (friend of Ed and Susan Schumacher) Kari Paetzold (niece of Jim and Sharman Galezewski)

Those studying abroad

Colleen Lattyak (Germany) Drew Krueger (England)

Those who are homebound

Barbara Bunjes Carolyn Martin Christopher Davis Joanne Nelson Marie Gierke Barbara Rinnan Ronald Gresens Kathleen Wrobel

Gloria Hillert

Those who need encouragement

Bruce Burnside (friend of Bob and Margaret Burke) in Oakhill Correctional Center Cheryl Luchetta (friend of Joan Koerber) in Logan Correctional Center

Sonny Putman (nephew of Susan Franzone)
Rusty Robb (grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/ Roberta Gillespie)
Jason Brown (nephew of Tim and Sue Sandvoss)
Matthew Shinkwin (friend of Eunice Spurgat)
Christopher W. Sylvester (grandson of Janet Sylvester)

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)	
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.
- $\hfill \square$ 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.



7300 Division Street River Forest, Illinois 60305 Phone: (708) 366-6900 Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org 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