

WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Children's Resources Children's resources, including activity bags, worship bulletins and

booster seats, are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery Care Nursery care is provided for children ages 4 and under. Nursery

facilities are located on the lower level, accessible via the elevator or the steps in the atrium. A silent paging system allows the nursery

staff to contact parents when needed.

Assistance in Worship For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the

service, please remain seated and contact an usher if you would like

Holy Communion to be brought to you.

Sound enhancement units and large print bulletins are available in

the back of the church and from the ushers.

Cell Phones and Pagers Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

Flowers The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in

memory of Victoria Bouman by Paul Bouman and his family.

Holy Communion In Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present,

giving his true body and blood as food and drink.

All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ is host.

Bulletin Cover The bulletin cover art is by Emily Weaver,

a student at Grace Lutheran School.

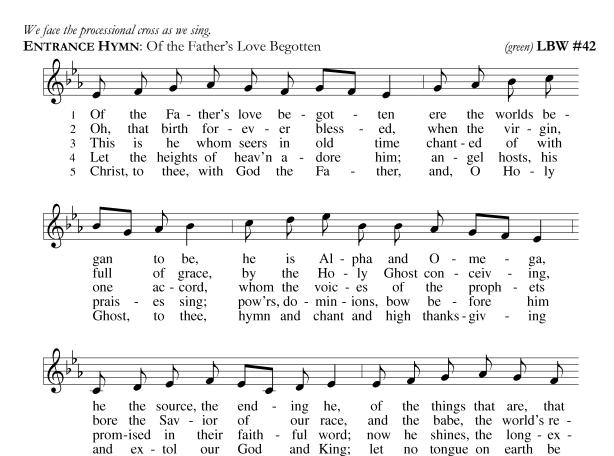
+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE: Christmas Carolludes

and

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Richard Hillert





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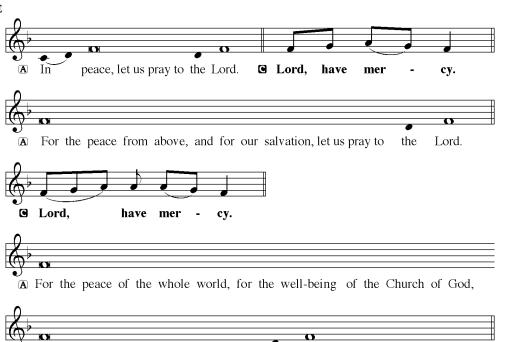


Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, mode V, 13th cent.

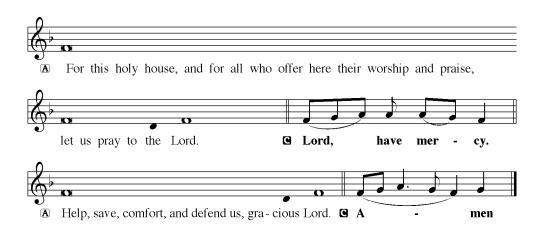
APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.**

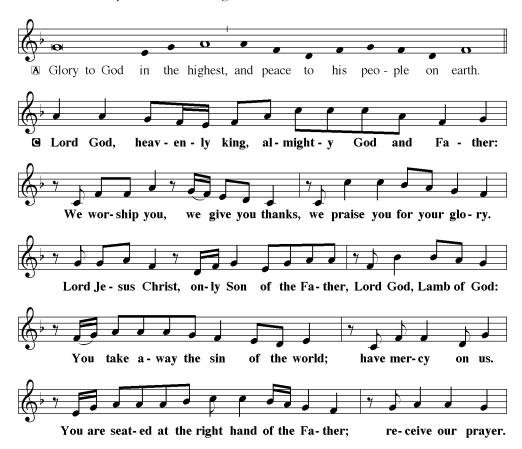
KYRIE

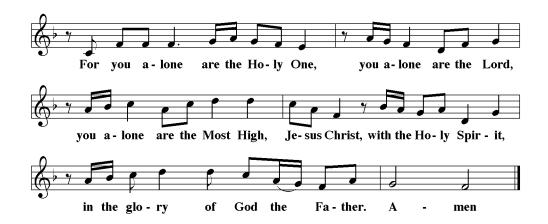


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE: Glory to God in the Highest





PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

We sit.

ANTHEM: Christmas

Michael D. Costello

After all pleasures as I rid one day, My horse and I, both tired, body and mind, With full cry of affections, quite astray; I took up the next inn I could find.

There when I came, whom found I but my dear, My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief Of pleasures brought me to him, ready there To be all passengers' most sweet relief?

Oh thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light, Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger; Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right, To man of all beasts be not thou a stranger:

Furnish and deck my soul, that thou mayst have A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.

George Herbert, 1593–1633

Notes on the George Herbert poem are on page 22.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How 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." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The 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.

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

PSALM 98

Antiphon by John Folkening

ANTIPHON: Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

- Let the multitude of the | earth rejoice;*

 let the multitude of the | isles be glad.
- © Clouds and darkness are | round about him,*
 righteousness and justice are the foundations | of his throne.
- A fire | goes before him* and burns up his enemies on | every side.
- His lightnings light | up the world;* the earth sees it and | is afraid.
- The mountains melt like wax at the presence | of the LORD,* at the presence of the Lord of | the whole earth.
- **G** The heavens de- | clare his righteousness,* and all the peoples | see his glory.
- © Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight | in false gods!*
 Bow down before him, | all you gods.
- **Q** Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,* because of your judg- | ments, O LORD.
- For you are the LORD, most high over | all the earth;* you are exalted far a- | bove all gods.
- The LORD loves those | who hate evil;*
 he preserves the lives of his saints
 and delivers them from the hand | of the wicked.
- Light has sprung up | for the righteous,* and joyful gladness for those who | are truehearted.
- **©** Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous,* and give thanks to his | holy name.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but 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. ³He 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, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For 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"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." ⁷Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." ⁸But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." ¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; ¹²like 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."

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

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Psalm 2:7 Richard Hillert

Alleluia. The Lord said to me, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:1–14

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

We sit.

CANTATA: Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage, BWV 248.1 (Celebrate, rejoice, arise, praise these days)

Johann Sebastian Bach

A translation of the cantata text is printed on page 10 of the Christmas Oratorio booklet. Please return the booklet so that it may be used throughout the Christmas season.

SERMON: To Make His Bed With Us

Pastor Phyllis N. Kersten

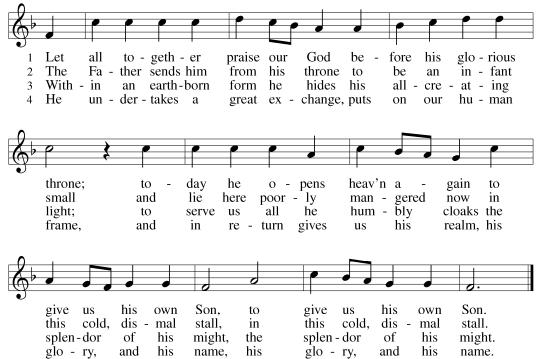


We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Let All Together Praise Our God

(green) LBW #47

The choir sings stanzas 3 and 6 in a harmonization by Jan Bender.



- 5 He is a servant, I a lord:
 how great a mystery!
 How strong the tender Christchild's love!
 No truer friend than he,
 no truer friend than he.
- 6 He is the key, and he the door to blessed paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, to God our praises rise.
- 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore, and praise to God the Father yield and Spirit evermore; we praise you evermore.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

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;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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.

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.
- Amen.

+ MEAL +

PEACE OF CHRIST

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: Gelobet seist du, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 604

J. S. Bach

We stand and sing as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: Tui sunt caeli (Psalm 89:12, 15a)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Tui sunt caeli et tua est terra,

Yours are the heavens and yours is the earth,

Orbem terrarum et plenitudinem ejus tu fundasti.

the world and the fullness thereof you have founded.

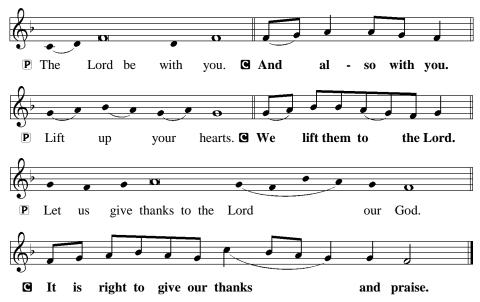
Justitia et judicium praeparatio sedis tuae.

Justice and judgment are the preparation of you throne.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

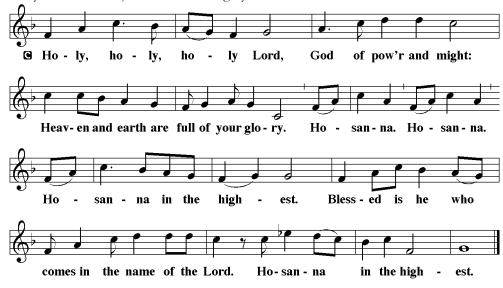
- **A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,

his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,

not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- 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;

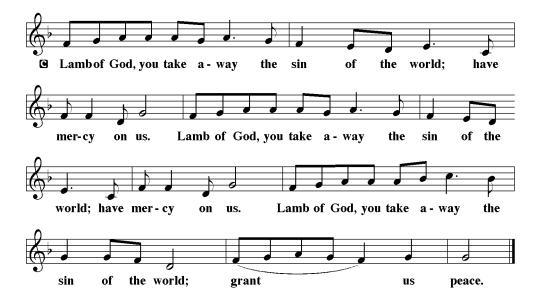
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

- **P** The gifts of God for the people of God.
- **G** Thanks be to God.
- **P** Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper, giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.

We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated host, and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the host into the wine (intinction).

Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.

Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

ANTHEM: Lullay, Mine Liking

Trevor Patrick Watkin

Lullay, mine Liking, my dear Son, mine Sweeting, Lullay, my dear heart, mine own dear darling.

I saw a fair maiden, sitting and sing, She lulled a little child a sweet lording: That very lord is He that made all things Of all lords He is Lord and King of all kings.

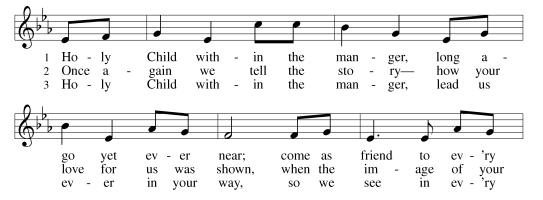
There was mickle (much) melody at that Childes birth, All that were in heaven's bliss, they made mickle mirth.

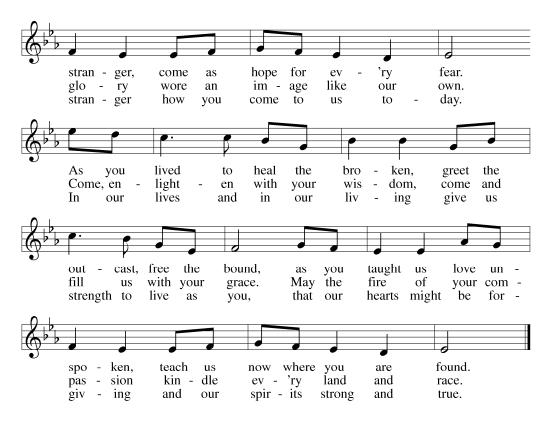
Angels bright they sang that night and saiden to that Child, "Blessed be Thou, and so be she that is both meek and mild." Pray we now to that Child, and to His mother dear, Grant them His blessing that now maken cheer.

15th Century Anonymous

HYMN: Holy Child within the Manger

(blue) **WOV** #638





Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt. Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.
- A Let us pray.

 Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
 and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

 Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
 and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore;
- C Amen.

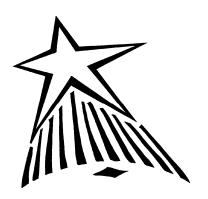
+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.





DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Poinsettias in the Chancel are given to the glory of God by members of Grace Lutheran Church.



Kim and Karen Brunssen In honor of our parents

Dahlstrom Family In honor of Joshua's last Christmas Eve service

as a Grace School student

Hans and Donna Dumpys In memory of Donna's brother Tomas Benson

Ruth Laux In honor of family

Dan Luther and Cathy Ruggeri In memory of Warren Luther and Carl Ruggeri

Marcia Nolan In memory of Evelyn and Pete Haase

Prinz Family In memory of Andrew Prinz

John and Marge Sanger In honor of loved ones

Gick Schmidt In memory of Stephen Schmidt Donna Serpico In gratitude for Grace Church

Steve Family In celebration of the birth of Christ

Stan and Paulette Reddel In memory of Paul and Leona Heckmann

Stephanie and Lance Wilkening In memory of Mary Lou and Elmer Wilkening

George Herbert (1593-1633), well born and Cambridge-educated, was headed for a promising career in government and at court when he decided to enter the ministry in order to serve as a country parson in the tiny church at Bemerton. On his deathbed a short three years later he handed a sheaf of poems to his friend Nicholas Ferrar to either burn or do with as he thought fit. These poems, published in 1633 as *The Temple*, comprise some of the most finely wrought, spiritually astute, beautiful poems in the English language.

Reading a Herbert poem, one is at first struck by what seems to be the plain language and what one critic has called the "artlessness." But a Herbert poem under its surface simplicity always reveals a complexity of tone and meaning, a theological sophistication, and an intricate weaving of image and theme. Even so, in these poems one is always aware of Herbert's immense humility.

"Christmas" is a poem in two parts. The text of the piece we hear today is the first part of the poem. In this poem the speaker and his horse have ridden all day and, exhausted and distracted (having pursued pleasure until there is no more pleasure to be had), stop at the first inn available. In this place he finds his "deare, My dearest Lord," who has been waiting until the "grief of pleasures brought me to him." In other words, pleasure pursued for its own sake brings restlessness and dissatisfaction, but Christ is present at this inn to give "sweet relief" to all passersby. The speaker describes Christ as the glorious Son of God whose light "contracted" into human form as a baby in a manger, also found in the stable of an inn. Since the speaker's dark, brutish soul belongs to Christ, he prays that Christ would dress the speaker's soul and in doing so find a better lodging than a "rack," the place for hay or straw that the manger was. "Rack" also refers to an instrument of torture, or the cross. In furnishing the speaker's soul, Christ will also redeem the speaker.

Jill Peláez Baumgaertner

LEADING WORSHIP

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister

The Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Laura Zimmer, organist

Neal Armstrong, deacon

Marcus Johnson, assisting minister

Kathy Hale and Bob Hale, lectors

Stan and Paulette Reddell, gift bearers

Kathy Lucht, John Lochner, and Paul Lochner, altar guild

Oliver Nicastro-Roloff and Erika Brewer, acolytes

Senior Choir/Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra

Sarah Ponder, mezzo-soprano

Hoss Brock, tenor

Douglas Anderson, baritone

Keven Keys, baritone

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT GRACE

Second Day of Christmas, December 26

7:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers, with Christmas Oratorio, Part II

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers, with Christmas Oratorio, Part III

New Year's Eve, December 31

7:00 p.m. Holy Communion

The Name of Jesus, January 1

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion, with Christmas Oratorio, Part IV

The Second Sunday of Christmas, January 3

8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers, with Christmas Oratorio, Part V

The Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6

 $7{:}00$ p.m. Holy Communion with Christmas Oratorio, Part VI

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.



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

www.graceriverforest.org gracechurch@graceriverforest.org David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Phyllis N. Kersten, Interim Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Laura Zimmer, Assistant Cantor
Paul Bouman, Minister of Music Emeritus
William Koehne, Principal
Gerald Koenig, Principal Emeritus
Kim Ramos, Parish Nurse
J. Logan Kruck, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Julie Modrich, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Gwen Gotsch, Communications Coordinator
P. Lars Bostrom, Director of Administration & Finance
Dan Muriello, Property Manager

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