

The First Sunday of Christmas
“The Mothers of Jesus:
A Service of Lessons and Carols”

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

December 27, 2020

“ A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus”

Service of the Word via YouTube

(Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Congregational responses are in bold print

*In this time of Coronavirus, the "Order of Worship" that we use has changed. From the earliest years of the Church the order of Worship was to **GATHER**, bringing ourselves and all that we are before God; then to hear the **WORD** of God, letting it enter our lives with the expectation, as the prophet Isaiah tells us, that it will not come away empty, but accomplish succeed in that which God purposes for it. (Isaiah 55:10-11). We are hearing that word from (usually) two readings during this time of Coronavirus; the gospel, and one additional reading, either from the Old Testament, the Psalms, or an epistle reading. Then we hear the Word proclaimed through the Sermon. We confess our faith, we share in Prayers to God for the world we live in and in thanksgiving to God for the promises that we will not be alone in whatever we are going through. And we are thankful for God's Living Word, Jesus, the embodied Word of God, and the ways Jesus is revealed through the Old and New Testament. Then we are **SENT** into this world - perhaps the most important part of worship, even if the shortest - because it is then that we live out our faith proclaimed in Word and Worship.*

*MISSING from these weeks of physically distant worship is the **MEAL** and times to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. As mentioned during our Maundy Thursday worship, we are in a wilderness time, where the promises of God we desire so greatly, to taste and drink and see God's forgiveness of sins and new life in bread and wine, in water, are still ahead of us. And as the apostle Paul wrote so powerfully in I Corinthians 11, we wait to receive the Sacrament together until ALL can receive it, not restricted by distance, and/or accessibility to technology that might allow some in the Body to receive it, and not others. So we pray for that time when we are re-united and able to receive the Meal together, and place our hope in the God who has called us through Water and the Word to bring us together again.*

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

This service of lessons and carols lifts up the women who prepared the way for, gave birth to, and proclaimed the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We remember and lament the suffering of these women due to the powers of this world. And we celebrate the incarnation of God's love for all humanity, bringing peace on earth and good will to all. The readings come from both the Old and New Testaments. The final reading is a portion of the assigned gospel of the day in both the Revised Common Lectionary and Narrative Lectionary.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and loving kindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

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.

Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Let us pray.

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

Amen

Reflection

Rev. Gordon Putnam, St. James Lutheran, Fishersville

First Reading: Tamar (Genesis 38:27-30)

Ashley Stollings, Grace Lutheran

Tamar is the first grandmother listed in Matthew's genealogy (Matthew 1:3). Tamar's (Genesis 38) story may shock our modern sensibilities. It involves prostitution, honor, bravery, and a sense of justice and social responsibility. The birth of Tamar's twins echoes the story of Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25:19ff), where, like Jacob, Perez usurps the birthright of Zerah, who was to be the first born. Tamar's descendants include King David (see reading #3)

A reading from Genesis:

²⁷When the time of Tamar's delivery came, there were twins in her womb. ²⁸While she was in labor, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and bound on his hand a crimson thread, saying, "This one came out first." ²⁹But just then he drew back his hand, and out came his brother; and she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore he was named Perez. ³⁰Afterward his brother came out with the crimson thread on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City"

Page 6, Verses 1, 4

Second Reading: Rahab (Joshua 6:22-25)

**Debbie Snyder
St. James Lutheran, Fishersville**

Rahab is the second grandmother of Jesus' genealogy (Matt 1:5). She is a resident of Jericho, a city under attack from the Israelites. She aided the Israelites and was faithful to God. She and her household are spared from the destruction of Jericho.

A reading from Joshua:

²²Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, "Go into the prostitute's house, and bring the woman out of it and all who belong to her, as you swore to her." ²³So the young men who had been spies went in and brought Rahab out, along with her father, her mother, her brothers, and all who belonged to her — they brought all her kindred out — and set them outside the camp of Israel. ²⁴They burned down the city, and everything in it; only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD. ²⁵But Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, Joshua spared. Her family has lived in Israel ever since. For she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Once in Royal David's City

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Third Reading: Ruth (Ruth 4:13-22)

Karla Rankin, Grace Lutheran

Ruth is the third grandmother of Jesus listed (Matt 1:5). A Moabite and a widow, she came from the land of Israel with her mother-in-law Naomi. She works to provide food for them by gleaning. She secures even more stability for them through her budding relationship with Boaz.

A reading from Ruth:

¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. ¹⁴Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him." ¹⁶Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. ¹⁷The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸Now these are the descendants of Perez: Perez became the father of Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron of Ram, Ram of Amminadab, ²⁰Amminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon, ²¹Salmon of Boaz, Boaz of Obed, ²²Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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Fourth Reading: Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:15-25)

**Ellen McDonald
St. James Lutheran, Fishersville**

Bathsheba is the fourth and final grandmother of Jesus, though she is not listed by name. In Matthew 1:6 she is identified by the name of her first husband, Uriah. King David plotted and killed Uriah so that he could take Bathsheba. Both David and Bathsheba suffer because of David's sin.

A reading from 2 Samuel:

¹⁵Then Nathan went to his house. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill. ¹⁶David therefore pleaded with God for the child; David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷The elders of his house stood beside him, urging him to rise from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "While the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we tell him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." ¹⁹But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead."

²⁰Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the LORD, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him and he ate. ²¹Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you rose and ate food." ²²He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may live.' ²³But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

²⁴Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he named him Solomon. The LORD loved him, ²⁵and sent a message by the prophet Nathan; so he named him Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Page 11, Verses 1, 4

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alle catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Fifth Reading: Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25)

Linda Meyer, Grace Lutheran

In the gospel of Luke, Elizabeth is a cousin of Mary. She experiences a great reversal with a miraculous pregnancy. Her story is a forerunner of Mary's, just as her son (John the Baptist) is a forerunner of Jesus.

A reading from Luke:

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Page 14, Verses 1, 4

Sixth Reading: Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

**Betty Diehl
St. James Lutheran, Fishersville**

Luke shares the largest portion of the story of Mary the mother of Jesus. Here we read her encounter with an angel, where she learns of her miraculous pregnancy. In the hymn following, we sing Mary's own words to Elizabeth in their encounter in Luke 2.

A reading from Luke:

²⁶In 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

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Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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Seventh Reading: Mothers of the Innocents (Matthew 2:16-18) Lily Pingel, Grace Lutheran

The wise men who seek the newborn king seek him first in Jerusalem. Their inquiries frighten King Herod and he acts to preserve his power. Many mothers weep because of his fear. Though Jesus' life is preserved (his family had fled to Egypt), his mother too will weep one day at the death of her son.

A reading from Matthew:

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: "Coventry Carol"

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Eighth Reading: Anna (Luke 2:21-24, 36-38)

Pastor Paul Pingel, Grace Lutheran

Luke does not provide many details about Anna. We do not know if she had any children of her own. However, she recognizes Jesus as the Son of God and proclaims that redemption has arrived.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Continued

51b. Coventry carol

Words from the *Pageant of the
Shearmen and Tailors* (15th cent.)

from the *Pageant of the
Shearmen and Tailors*
arranged by MARTIN SHAW
(1875-1958)

REFRAIN

S.
A.

Lul - ly, lul - la, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul -

T.
B.

End here $\text{C} \text{C}$

- ly, lul - lay.

1. O sis - ters too, How may we do
2. He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing,
3. That woe is me, Poor child for thee!

For to pre - serve this day This poor young - ling, — For
Char - ged he hath this day His men of might, — In
And ev - er morn and day, For thy part - ing Nei - ther

After 3rd verse repeat refrain
Dal $\text{C} \text{C}$

whom we do sing, By by, lul - ly lul - lay?
his own sight, All young chil - dren to slay.
say nor sing By by, lul - ly lul - lay!

This song is sung by the women of Bethlehem in the play, just before Herod's soldiers come in to slaughter their children.

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³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn: *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

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Apostles’ Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

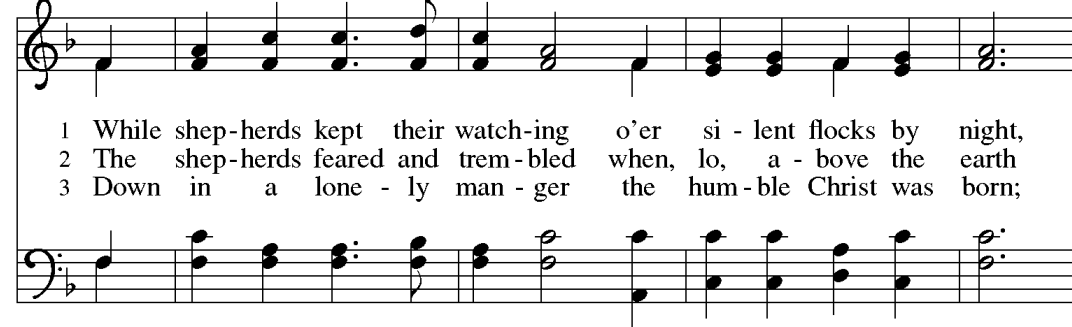
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

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

Prayers of the People

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with your wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoot and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness especially those suffering from COVID-19 and those we name aloud or in our hearts now. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your world. For all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by the star, bless you this day ✝ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

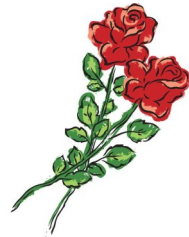
Postlude

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

- Assisting Minister:** Ashley Stollings
Offering Steward: Pat Brady
Altar Flowers: Open
Council Person of the Week: Jerry Kite



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

January 3, 2021
2nd Sunday of Christmas
Service of the Word via YouTube
10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching & Presiding

Boy in the Temple
Luke 2:41-52
Psalm 2:7-8



Please call the Church Office if you need to add someone to the Prayer List. In an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us, **names on the Prayer List will remain for four weeks.** If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

**Caroline Biggers
Anne Putnam
Eleanor Sampson**

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

**Sally Massey, Friend of Kathy Johnson
Jeff Morgan, Friend of Amber Bokelman**

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)

Liz Ann Binns	Fred Brower	Marie Brown
Nancy Fitzgerald	Pete Giesen	Sandra R. Hoy
Bob and Carol Knemoller	Glenn and Flossie Myers	Janet Parmer

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)

Janice Collins, Friend of Grace	Nancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's Wife
Lisa Dofflemeyer, Daughter of Linda Tomey	Kyle Getler, Member Relative
Larry Hinebaugh, Friend of Donna Gum	Maxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy Trauscht
Barbara Shifflett and Family	George Toop, Friend of the Schwiesows

Members/Friends Grieving

**The Family of Ginger Hood, Sister-in-law of Kathy Johnson
The Family of Billy Limbert, Ex-brother-in-law of Linda Tomey**

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Carol Wolf	Easton Carper
Carrie Jones	Linda Meyer

The Needs of the World

Our Nation, President-Elect Biden and Vice-President Elect Harris, Senator Warner and Representative Cline

Veterans, and their service to our nation

The beginning of Covid-19 vaccine deliveries

Families affected by Covid-19 - death, health, employment

The Flu Season of this year

Those affected by Wildfires and Hurricane damage in the American West and Southeast

The Church

The Student Care Center at Grace

Our sisters and brothers at St. John Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian and St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Churches

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors on Arch and Market Streets, and the Tree Streets

Monday

Isaiah 49:13-23

Isaiah 54:1-13

Matthew 18:1-14

Tuesday

Isaiah 12:1-6

Revelation 1:1-8

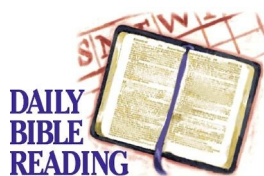
John 7:37-52

Wednesday

Isaiah 25:1-9

Revelation 1:9-20

John 7:53—8:11



Thursday

Isaiah 26:1-6

2 Corinthians 5:16—6:2

John 8:12-19

Friday

Genesis 17:1-12a, 15-16

Colossians 2:6-12

John 16:23b-30

Saturday

Genesis 12:1-7

Hebrews 11:1-12

John 6:35-42, 48-51

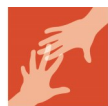
NEWS & Notes



Altar Flowers for 2021—The flower chart is up for 2021. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday next year, please give Nancy at the Church Office a call and she will be glad to sign you up.



Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, today - We worship via YouTube and Zoom today with a unique Lessons and Carols service that remembers the four women ancestors in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1; and Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, Mary, the Mother of our Lord, the mothers of the Holy Innocents, and Anna, the prophetess who gave praise to God for the "redemption of Israel" through Jesus, the Son of God. St. James Lutheran, Fishersville also shares in joint worship with us, providing readers of the lessons in concert with Grace readers. Pastor Gordon Putnam also joins Pastor Paul in helping to lead worship, with a reflection on the texts.



**DISASTER
RELIEF**

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to Wildfires and Hurricanes - Fires out West are newly threatened by high winds; Hurricanes Laura, Sally, Delta and Eta arriving through the Gulf of Mexico in a six week period, rocked the Gulf coast of Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, wreaking devastation across these states. You can help through LDR. Donate through elca.org, or through Grace, with "LDR Wildfire and Hurricane" in the memo line.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made twelve deliveries thus far, six to Main Street United Methodist, and six to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the

midst of great need. If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.

NEWS & Notes



WARM Cold Weather Shelter in the fellowship hall for a week. Due to COVID, the shelter has been housed at the Day's Inn and will continue there for the foreseeable future. The guests are provided a hot meal each evening, but we have been ask to provide breakfast and lunch each day beginning January 25 thru 31st. There are funds from the Virginia Synod grant to help with the cost of the meals, however Grace needs volunteers to prepare breakfast and lunch and to deliver them to the Day's Inn. If you would be willing to take a day or partner with someone to help, please let Jerry or Gwen Kite know (540-910-0508). Both meals can be delivered in the morning. Breakfast can consist of frozen breakfast biscuits or individual boxes of cereal and milk and fruit. Each guest has access to a microwave to heat their meal. Lunch could be sandwiches or a bowl of chili, mac and cheese, or anything that can be reheated in the microwave. At this time there are 40 guests.



New Trees Need Water - We need three or four volunteers to water our new trees once per week. You could take the first week, for example, and water if there's no rain or snow scheduled (no need to water if it rains or snows, like this past week!). Let the Church Office or Pastor Paul know if you are interested.



Disciples' KITCHEN

Disciples Kitchen Collection Update—Thank you for the generous response of socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Enough socks were donated that each gift bag for Disciples Kitchen could receive 2 pairs of socks, plus we gave some to the WARM House to be given to the ladies. There were enough toothbrushes to be given to Disciples Kitchen and to the Cold Weather Shelter. There were a number of hats and gloves to be shared with Disciples Kitchen and the WARM House.



The Church Office will be closed December 28 for Christmas holiday.



Life of Grace Church
December 27, 2020-January 3, 2021

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Meeting
TODAY— SUNDAY	12/27	10:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Christmas Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom
Monday	12/28	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Childcare in Fellowship Hall Church Office Closed
Tuesday	12/29	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Childcare in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	12/30	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Childcare in Fellowship Hall
Thursday	12/31	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.	Childcare in Fellowship Hall
Friday	01/01		New Year's Day Office Closed
Sunday	01/03	10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Christmas Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom



Members of Grace Congregational Council

Linda Meyer, President
Jerry Kite, Vice-President
Bob Barrette, Kathy Bump,
Holly Carper, Robin Crowder,
Kim Hull, Gail Johnson,
Kathryn Johnson
Hannah Pingel, Youth Representative
David Proctor, Secretary
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor

Mike Myers, Organist,
Director of Music

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch 12:00-12:30) - Monday - Thursday;
8:30 a.m.—Noon - Friday

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Email: gracelc@lumos.net

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www.gracewaynesboro.org Email: gracelc@lumos.net Telephone: 540.949.6171