



*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
December 18, 2022*

*“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant  
congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other,  
the community, and the world.”*

## *HOLY COMMUNION*

*Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three  
(Available via You Tube and Zoom Remotely)*

*Congregational responses are in bold print*

*We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. **We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card. We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available please inform Communion Assistant of your need.***

*We have 4 assisted listening units that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.*

*Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.*

*During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are parts the you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so **as you are able**. As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.*

### **Gathering**

#### **Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness

*We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the One who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.**

**We have strayed from your paths.**

**We prepare to do battle instead of seeking your way of peace.**

**We dishonor one another and your creation.**

**Purify us with your refining fire**

**and set us again on your way of love,**

**that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,**

**and welcome your coming among us.**

**Amen.**

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**Amen.**



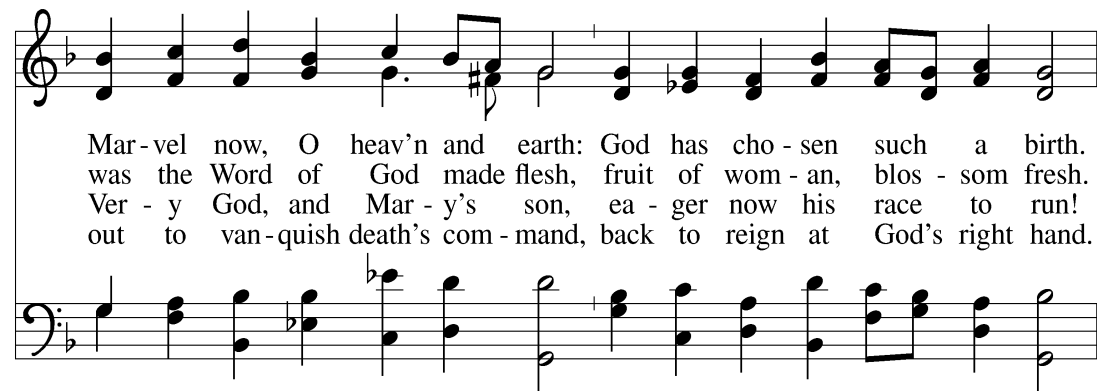
Gathering Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

#263, Page 4, Verses 1-3, 6

## Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## 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

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

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

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.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*We sit.*

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones.  
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you.  
Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles,  
and more dear than all else we seek.  
Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,  
and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**Amen**

#### **Candle Lighting**

*Three candles are lit as we sing:*

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

**#240, Page 8 Verse 4**



## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## Word

### Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**





**Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

*We read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

**<sup>2</sup>before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

**Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O Lord GOD of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**<sup>6</sup>You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**<sup>17</sup>But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

A reading from Romans:

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

<sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel

concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was

declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection

from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and

apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of

his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**Children's Message**

**Pastor Paul Pingel**



**Sermon**

**Pastor Paul Pingel**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



**Hymn of the Day:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**#257, Page 12, Verses 1, 2, 6, 7**

## 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. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 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 Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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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.**

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,  
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;**

**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.**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,  
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo  
la Roho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira  
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio  
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,  
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,  
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,  
akapanda mbinguni, anakaa kwa  
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,  
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena  
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**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.**

**Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa  
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,  
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na  
uzima wa milele. Amina**

The  
Apostles'  
+ Creed +

## Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayers end with these words*

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**Meal**

### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please greet those around you, offer a sign of peace to one another.*

*We sit.*

### Offering

*We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle.*

*(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate)*



*We stand*

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful  
*Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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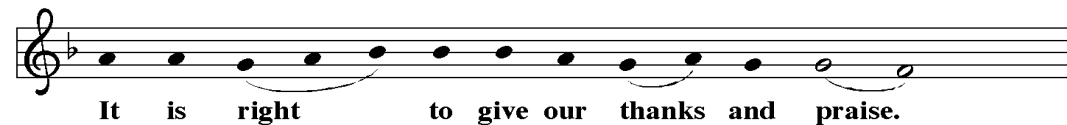
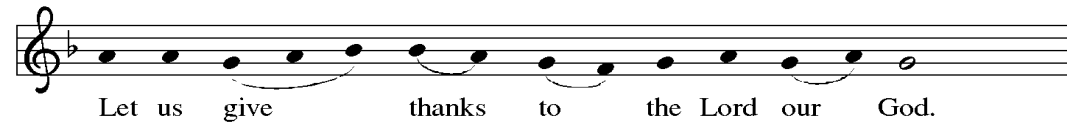
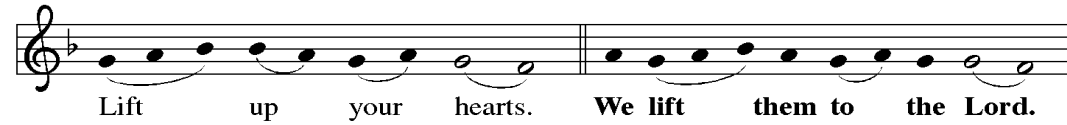
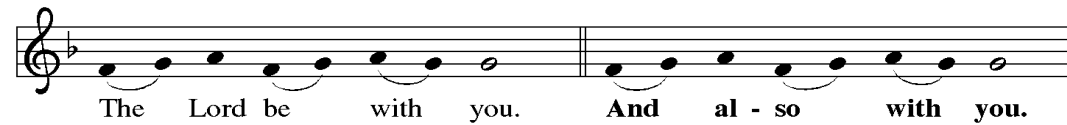
## Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God,  
**you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**



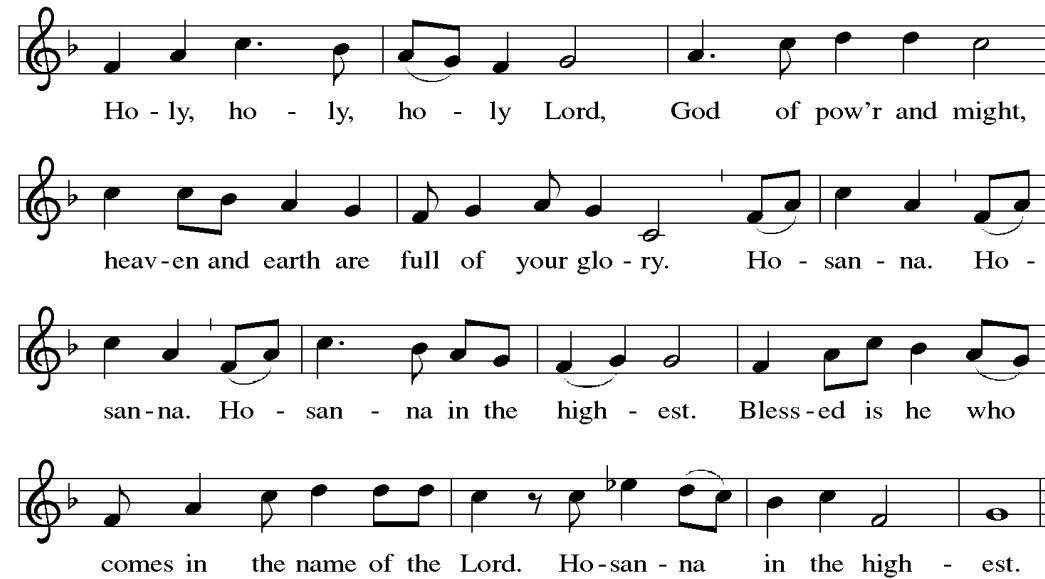
## Great Thanksgiving





## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*Sosanna*  
IN THE  
*Highest*

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life;  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 of my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith;  
**Christ has died,**  
**Christ has risen,**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word  
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,  
One God, now and forever.  
**Amen**



### Lord's Prayer

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.**

### Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God, who has come to save you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We sit*

### The Holy Communion

*OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

### Baba Yetu

**Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako  
litukuzwe;  
ufalme wako ufike,  
utakalo lifanyike  
duniani kama mbinguni.  
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,  
utusamehe makosa yetu,  
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.  
Usitutie katika kishawishi,  
lakini utuopoe maovuni.  
Amina.**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**The Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

**Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray.

Faithful God,  
**in this meal you have remembered your mercy,  
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.  
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,  
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.  
Guide us toward your promised future,  
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**



**Sending**

# Benediction+

**Benediction**

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✝ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song:** *“Joy to the World”*

**#267, Page 22**

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872



Altar Flowers

*Chancel flowers this morning  
are given to the Glory of God and  
in celebration of  
Chuck and Judi Goodrich's  
ninth wedding anniversary*

*Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons*

*December 25, 2022*

*Christmas*

*Holy Communion*

*10:00 a.m.*

*Pastor Paul Pingel  
Presiding and Preaching*

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

*Psalms 148*

*Hebrews 2:10-18*

*Matthew 2:13-23*



*Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today*

*Altar Flowers: Chuck & Judi Goodrich*

*Altar Guild: Kathy Meicke*

*Assisting Minister: Lew Jobs*

*Communion Assistants: Ron Almarode*

*Karen Walck*

*Council Person of the Week: Andrew Sell*

*Offering Stewards: Pat Brady*

*Vivian Proctor*

*Ushers: Pat Brady*

*Jean Morgan*



**Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. **Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks**, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. 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\*)**

Sylvia Almarode

Jan McCombs

Phyllis Kite

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

**Beth Hausrath Crickenberger**, Friend to Many at Grace

**Kristen Schwiesow**, Daughter of David and Nancy Schwiesow

**K. J. Vigue**, Friend of Gail Johnson and Donna Gum

**Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks\*)**

**Birth of Miles Marcus Lawson**, Grandson of Robin and Cathy Crowder

**Katie Crowder receiving Salem's Teacher of the Year Recognition**,

Daughter-in-Law of Robin and Cathy Crowder

**Angel Morgan receiving her doctorate from NC State**, Daughter-in-Law Jean Morgan

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

Emily Almarode

Fred Brower

Glenn Myers

Ingrid Sevigny

Liz Ann Binns

Sandra Hoy

Jimmy Owens

Beth Brady

Kathryn Johnson

Janet Parmer

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

**Timothy Bradford**, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

**Janice Collins**, Friend of Grace

**Nina Crow**, Mother of Cathy Crowder

**Natalie and Nicole Dodge**, Friends of Ron and Sylvia Almarode

**Kyle Getler**, Member Relative

**Darren Graf**, Son of Woody and Irma Graf

**Regan Grant**, Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump

**Sandy Higgs**, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow

**Rosalind Holt**, Friend of Gail Johnson

**Joshua Horn**, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht

**Jen Kearney**, Friend to Many at Grace

*Continued*



**Dot Metz**, Sister of Marge Cloutier  
**Ken & Letty Rosen**, Friends of David and Nancy Schwiesow  
**Judy Simpson**, Sister of Sharon Lynch  
**Larry Spoon**, Husband of Bonnie Spoon, Friend of Many  
**Kay Truslow**, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht  
**Douglas Williams**, Friend of Sylvia Almarode, deployed to Kuwait for one year  
**Toretta Wyatt**, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

**Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for 4 weeks\*)**  
**Family of Marie Brown**, Member of Grace, Mother of Jane McGehee and Janet Parmer  
**Family of James Hepner**, Father of Gloria Nelson  
**Family of Kevin Machon**, Nephew of Linda Tomey  
**Family of Marty Johnson**  
**Family of Flossie Myers**, Member of Grace  
**Family of Margaret Neely**, Mother of Jill Pingel

**Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year Celebrating Birthdays**  
**Dwight Moomaw (12/20)** **Chuck Goodrich (12/21)**  
**Zachary Bandy (12/21)** **Patrick Brady (12/23)**

**The Needs of the World**

**First responders: Fire, EMT, Medical Personnel, Police and Military at risk in their service to others**

The Homeless in our Community (35 are served by WARM, but it is estimated that there are an additional 45-60 not served by the Shelter)

**This Fall's flu and virus proliferation, and continuing Covid dangers (avg. deaths per day still exceed 200/day)**

The strength of the church's witness in a world in need of Good News

**Winter Storms and Tornadoes' impact across our nation in mid-December**

LGBTQ citizens of our nation, and the increase of rhetoric that puts them more at risk in daily life

**For peace on earth: The Ukraine, Republic of Congo, Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen**

**The Church**

**Grace's Strategic Planning**

Our friends in Christ at St. John Episcopal

**Our Neighbors**

**Our neighbors in the Wenonah area**



**Christmas Eve and Christmas at Grace!** Invite family and friends to celebrate God - With - Us, Emmanuel this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! God So Loved the World That He Gave His Only Son...Come and worship December 24 and 25

**Christmas Eve Family Service of Holy Communion - 5:00 p.m.** - Choir, Candlelight, Carols, Crèche building, giving praise for the Good News of our Savior's Birth

**Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion - 8:00 p.m.** - Candlelight, Carols, Special Music (Soloists and Musicians), celebrating the joyful news that Jesus is God-With-Us, Emmanuel!



**Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion - 10:00 a.m.** - Christmas Morning Worship on a Sunday! Carols, Communion, the Word Made Flesh, Dwelling Among Us.



**Advent Wednesdays Shared by Four Lutheran Congregations** The Season of Advent - the start to a new Church Year - began November 27th. In addition, we will mark Advent with a series of four Advent Wednesday Services at 7:00 p.m.:

- **Wednesday, December 21st** - Bethlehem Lutheran Church - 7:00 p.m. Blue Christmas worship service. This service is designed for those who experience Christmas as a difficult time - because of grief, loss, or mental health issues - and allows space to acknowledge these struggles during a time in which our culture "demands" a certain celebration.

*"Prepare the Way of the Lord!" says John the Baptist during this Season. Make Wednesday Advent worship a part of your holiday traditions this Season - "Ah dearest Jesus, Holy Child, make thee a bed, soft, undefiled, within my heart that it may be a quiet chamber kept for Thee." (Martin Luther)*



**Christmas Decorating!** - Today after church, we decorate the worship space in preparation for the Christmas Season. Come and take part— we need your help!



The **VMA Holiday Recitals** are **today** at 2:00 p.m. AND 4:00 p.m. They would love for you to attend, see student progress made over the past year and listen to some holiday music.



**Conference Room Renovation!** - Check out the Conference Room next to the Fellowship Hall!, The Property Team of Fred Biggers, Ron Myers, and Rew Walck, repaired walls and corners, sanded and painted the space. Many thanks for their work!



**Thanks to WARM Volunteers** - - Many thanks to many, many volunteers - providing meals, checking in WARM guests, shower monitoring, overnight monitors, clean-up duty and more...who enabled Grace to "...Bring the homeless poor into your house...(Isaiah 58:7)". We are blessed to be a blessing!



**College Graduation and Virginia Synod article!** We offer congratulations to Lily Pingel as she graduates from Roanoke College in December. Lily has also had an article published in the Virginia Synod on her research of the ELCA. The article is web-based and you can find it at: [www.vasynod.org/race-the-elca-and-the-virginia-synod/](http://www.vasynod.org/race-the-elca-and-the-virginia-synod/) God's peace and blessing on her graduation!



**Red Kettle Bell Ringer Support**—Rew Walck and Ron Myers will be ringing the bell December 21 at the big Wal-Mart retail door from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Last year , we raised \$1,712 in four (4) days. Our goal is \$2,000. If you can come down and support the Kettle, we will let you ring our bell!!!



Dear Grace Congregation, Thank y'all so much for the wonderful care package to get ready for exams! It was so thoughtful and I really appreciate the time and care took to make the care package. I feel so supported and the snacks are really helping me get through the week! Thanks so much, Hannah Pingel



**Texts from "Pastor" Over the Holidays** - Over the past few days, Grace members have received text messages from "Rev. Paul H. Pingel" asking people to reply to the message. The text messages have come from a "501" area code (Arkansas). These are "phishing" texts and are **NOT** FROM PASTOR PAUL. Please delete them immediately from your phone. And please notify the church office if you receive suspicious emails or texts from Pastor Paul.



**First Sunday Fellowship Begins in January** - Beginning in January 2023, our Fellowship Team - as well as other Grace ministries and groups - will be hosting a First Sunday Fellowship each month. It is simply an opportunity for us to have a little extra time after worship to enjoy some light refreshments, and the Community and Fellowship we have in Christ here at Grace! We look forward to seeing you then!



Donations

**Cold Weather Donations Request** — We are collecting donations of socks, hats, scarves, gloves, toothbrushes and toothpaste for distribution at the Disciple's Kitchen breakfasts during the upcoming cold months. We would like to collect items for women, men, and children. New or clean, gently used items will be greatly appreciated! We have a box outside the office door for drop off. Any questions, please call Cindy Trauscht at 434-227-6100. Thank you!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Adult Sunday School!** Pastor Karen Van Stee leads an engaging study of Matthew's gospel at **8:30** a.m. *Please note the new, earlier starting time.* Come join us!



**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 pantries. We have made **thirty** deliveries thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and fifteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3160 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off



Thank you to all who helped with putting up the **Advent Wreath**. In the picture.. Lee Lynch.. Glen Gray... Charley Wilson... and Jerry Kite.



**Second Yoga Class Offered at Grace** - Shelton Sprouse, who had the "Blue Moon Yoga" studio on Main Street until the pandemic, has been offering a Yoga class Saturday mornings at Grace. It is designed for beginners and senior adults, for "physical activity and mindfulness." The class is offered from 11:00 a.m.—12:15 a.m. Saturday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that the Yoga class will be in the **Seminar Room** on the following date: December 3, December 10, January 7 and January 28. A donation may be given, but is not required.

**He will be offering a second class on Wednesday evenings** from 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in the Seminar Room. A donation may be given, but is not required.



#### **Covid Policy at Grace**

- Masking is optional during worship.
- Masking if you have not been vaccinated for Covid or Flu
- We will continue to post the CDC "risk" color (green [low], yellow [medium] or orange [high risk]) in the narthex
- There is a "social distance" section available in the front right of the worship space
- Holy Communion will continue to be offered by coming up front and receiving bread and individual cups of wine; pastor and assistants will mask when the CDC "risk" color is orange (high)
- Masks and hand sanitizer continue to be available in the narthex.

#### ***We continue to encourage:***

- Vaccination and keeping up-to-date with current shots
- Staying home when not feeling well, especially with flu and other infections on the rise this time of year
- Masking for Covid, flu or other infections.



Thanks to all who sent cards for my Birthday! I enjoyed reading each and every one. Really made my Birthday special. Thank you, Deloris Wertman



*Life of Grace Church*  
*December 18 -25,2022*

Day	DATE	TIME	MEETING
Sunday	12/18	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.  10:50 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	<b>Matthew—Adult Bible Class</b>  <b><i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i></b> <i>Service of Holy Communion</i> <i>In Person and via You Tube</i> <b>Pastor Paul Pingel</b> Presiding and Preaching  <b>Coffee Fellowship Zoom</b>  <b>Confirmation Class</b>  <b><i>VMA Holiday Recital (Fellowship Hall)</i></b> <b><i>VMA Holiday Recital (Fellowship Hall)</i></b>
Tuesday	12/20	7:00 p.m.	<b>Church Council</b> (Conference Room)
Wednesday	12/21	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group (Chapel)  Yoga (Seminar Room)  <b><i>Advent Vespers—Blue Christmas</i></b> <i>(Bethlehem Lutheran)</i>
Thursday	12/22	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	<b>Grace Walkers</b>  <b>Bridge Club</b> (Fellowship Hall)  <b>CCEJ Group Zoom Meeting</b>
Friday	12/23		<b>Church Office Closes at Noon</b>
Saturday	12/24	5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	 <b><i>Family Christmas Eve Service</i></b>  <b><i>Traditional Christmas Eve Service</i></b>
Sunday	12/25	10:00 a.m.	 <b><i>Christmas</i></b> <i>Service of Holy Communion</i> <i>In Person and via You Tube</i> <b>Pastor Paul Pingel</b> Presiding and Preaching

**Monday**

Isaiah 11:10-16  
Revelation 20:1-10  
John 5:30-47  
Morning Psalm 145, Evening 67



**Tuesday**

Isaiah 28:9-22  
Revelation 20:11—21:8  
Luke 1:5-25  
Morning Psalm 146, Evening 94

**Wednesday**

Isaiah 29:9-24  
Revelation 21:9-21  
Luke 1:26-38  
Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 17

**Thursday**

Isaiah 31:1-9  
Revelation 21:22—22:5  
Luke 1:39-48a  
Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 62

**Friday**

Isaiah 33:17-22  
Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20  
Luke 1:57-66  
Morning Psalm 148, Evening 16

**Saturday**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Revelation 22:12-17, 21  
Luke 1:67-80  
Morning Psalm 149, Evening 72





Members of Grace Congregational Council



*Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)*  
*Nancy Schwiesow, Vice-President (301-943-0888)*  
*Bob Barrette (434-760-4419), Fred Biggers (434-981-1954),*  
*Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176), Jean Morgan (540-649-4422),*  
*Susan Myers (434-760-1660), Andrew Sell (612-695-8361),*  
*Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772), Karen Walck (765-480-9920)*  
*Ron Almarode, Treasurer*  
*Vivian Proctor, Secretary*  
*Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer*  
*Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary*

*Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor*  
*Email: [pastorpingel@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpingel@gmail.com)*

*Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music*  
*Email: [mickhdking@aol.com](mailto:mickhdking@aol.com)*

*Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary*  
*Email: [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto:Grace.lc@comcast.net)*

*Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m.,*  
*Monday-Thursday Closed Friday*

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