

# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 8:00 p.m. December 24, 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 Four Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this wonderful evening of light, music, the Holy Word and fellowship. 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.

Welcome		Pastor Pingel
<u>Prelude</u>		
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"	Jered Stratton, Guitar	Arr. Skitbert
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven C	ame" Marit Stratton, Piano	Arr. Oliver
"Carols Sing"	Organist	Arr. Denton
"Sheep May Safely Graze"	Jered Stratton, Guitar	J. S. Bach

## Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

#### Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### God of life.

and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.
Hear the good news:

you promise good news of great joy for all people,

Tiedi tile good fiews.

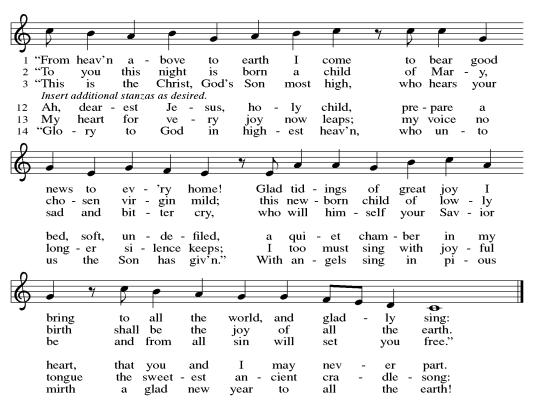
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Gathering Song: "From Heaven Above" #268, Page 4, Verses 1, 2, 12, 14

We sit



# From Heaven Above



- 4 "The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand, that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share."
- 5 "These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he: in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds."
- 6 Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near to see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.
- 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there! What lies within that manger bare? Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.

- 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest! You turned not from our needs away; how can our thanks such live repay?
- 9 O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small, to sweetly sleep in manger-bed where lowing cattle lately fed?
- 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare, still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.
- 1 For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough on which as king so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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# **Christmas Dawn Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

# First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Second Reading: Titus 3:4–7

A reading from Titus, the Third Chapter:

<sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### We stand.

<u>Carol</u>: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #283, Page 7, Verses 1, 4

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the Second Chapter

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

## O Come, All Ye Faithful



 $Text: attr.\ John\ Francis\ Wade,\ 1711-1786;\ tr.\ Frederick\ Oakeley,\ 1802-1880,\ sts.\ 1,\ 3-4;\ tr.\ unknown,\ st.\ 2$   $Music:\ ADESTE\ FIDELES,\ attr.\ John\ Francis\ Wade$ 

<u>Homily</u> Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

We stand.

<u>Carol</u>: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270, Page 9

## **Prayers of Intercession**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

#### **Peace**

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

On this Christmas Eve, you may greet one another with a sign of blessing and witness to one another by saying "Jesus Christ is the Light of the World." Please be mindful of those with Covid/flu concerns as you greet one another.

We sit



#### Offering

All loose offering (bills and change) - and checks made payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church with Renewing Homes noted in the memo line will be given to the Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. Renewing Homes provides - at no cost to a homeowner - critical home repairs and modifications for low-income elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged homeowners. Grace volunteers have worked for many years on Renewing Homes projects. Your donation will help with materials required that enable people to stay in their homes.

All envelopes (and checks made out to Grace Lutheran Church without a memo designation to Renewing Homes) will be given to Grace and its ministries.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Offertory: "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Keesecker

# Hannah Pingel, Pianist

We stand.

The Ushers bring the offering to the Altar.

Carol: "What Child Is This"

# Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.** 



#296, Page 11, Verses 1, 2

# **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise



# What Child Is This



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

# **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. 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: "Joy to the World" #267, Page 13, Verses 1, 3, 4

#### Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is 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.

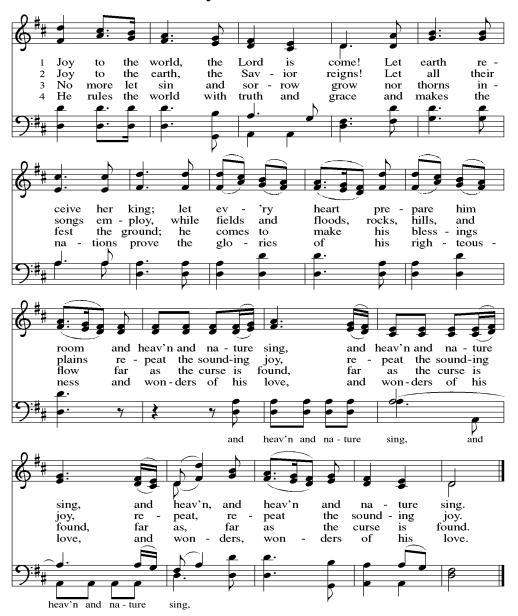
Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

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**

# Joy to the World



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

# **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.



# **Invitation to Communion**

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

#### Thanks be to God!

The congregation may be seated.



#### The congregation may be seated.

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)

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

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

and each person may respond

Amen.

# Agnus Dei: "Who Is He In Yonder Stall?" Mike Myers, Soloist

- 1. Who is he in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall?
- 2. Lo, at midnight who is he prays in the dark Gethsemane?
- 3. Who is he in Calvary's throes asks for blessings on his foes?
- 4. Who is he that from the grave comes to heal and help and save?
- 5. Who is he that from yon throne rules the world of light alone?

#### Refrain

'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! 'Tis the Lord, the King of glory; at his feet we humbly fall, crown him, crown him Lord of all!

## **Communion Hymns**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"#279, Page 17"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"#276, Page 18"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"#282, Page 19



# O Little Town of Bethlehem



Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

# 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.



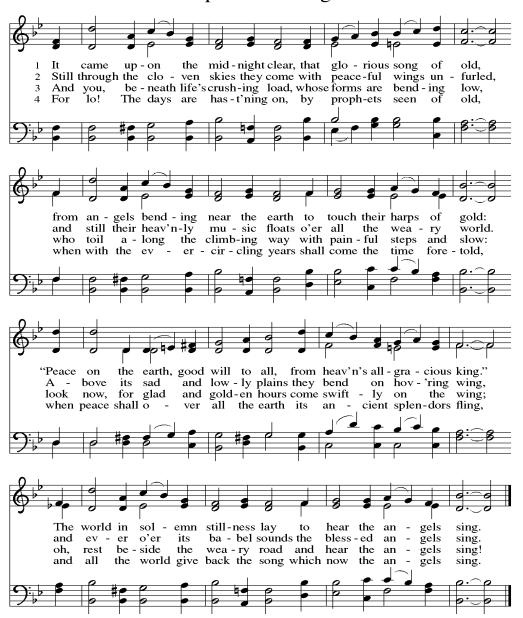
Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



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 ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## 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.

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

# Sending

# **Blessing**

Amen.

Hymn Meditation on Christmas Eve: "Silent Night"

#281, Page 20

#### Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"

Arr. Biery

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# Silent Night, Holy Night! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863



# Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in memory of:

My Parents by Berenice Archambeault
Brian Dolan by the Family of Brian Dolan
Pete Giesen by Pat Giesen
Family Loved Ones by Donna Gum
Jerry & Sarah Gum by Ron & Sandy Knicely
Lloyd Page Kite (husband) and Kenneth P. Kite (son) by Phyllis Kite
Jimmy Binns by Mike and Susan Myers
Al and Valla Myers by Mike and Susan Myers
Charlie and Marge Parkel by Mike and Susan Myers
Flossie Myers by Glenn Myers
Vada Hepner by Jim & Gloria Nelson
Elaine Nelson by Jim & Gloria Nelson
Linda C. Owens by Jimmy Owens

Linda C. Owens by Jimmy Owens

Margarett Neely by Paul & Jill Pingel

Lillian Pingel by Paul & Jill Pingel

Seward & Bette Proctor, Elmer & Myrtle Swanson, Marion (Proctor) Tollisen by David & Vivian Proctor

Parents, Aunts, Uncle, Sister by William Proctor
Dick Sheaffer by the Family of Dick Sheaffer
Mildred Shumate by Robert Shumate
Rev. & Mrs. Alfred Shumate by Robert Shumate
Brett Stein by Karl & Jane Stein
Karen Stein by Karl & Jane Stein



# Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in memory of:

Dick Tomey by Linda Tomey
Lisa Ann Dofflemeyer (Daughter) by Linda Tomey
Bob & Flo Walck by Rew & Karen Walck
John & Ingrid Webber by Rew & Karen Walck

# Poinsettias for decorating the Nave are given in honor of:

All members who contribute their time and talents year round for the worship life of the Church by Donna Gum
Owen Keefer for his tireless work by Donna Gum
Choirs of Grace by Mike and Susan Myers
Glenna Hale and Family by Glenn Myers
Our Children by Ron & Sandy Knicely
Proctor and Traynor Family Loved Ones by David & Vivian Proctor
Nick & Sarah Altic by Rew & Karen Walck

Please feel free to take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve Services or pick them up Sunday, December 25



# Thanks to Our Worship Assistants This Evening

Altar Guíld: Susan Myers

Assisting Minister: Gloria Nelson

Communion Assistant: Susan Myers

Jim Nelson

Council Person of the Week: Andrew Sell

Offering Stewards: Pat Brady

**Ushers:** Pat Brady

Gail Johnson



The Church Office will be closed Friday, December 23, at noon; and Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27, for our staff to enjoy the holiday season with their families.

We hope everyone has a joyous time with family and friends.

May God truly bless each and everyone of you with health, happiness and the hope that God is with us in Jesus Christ.



# 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
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music
Email: mickhdking@aol.com
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary
Email: 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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