



## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024 | 8:00 and 10:30am

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thornville, Ohio

### VISITORS

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We welcome you in the name of Christ and hope his word of forgiveness and freedom finds you while you are with us this morning. If you are visiting or are new to our church, we ask that you complete a yellow Connection Card and pass it to the center isle for collection during the Entrance Hymn. We would like to be in touch with you and to let you know more about Grace Lutheran. We are glad you are with us.

### OUR WORSHIP

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Lutherans think of worship not in terms of something we do for God, but rather what God does for us. We often call our worship a "service," and that means that God serves us in our need. At the end of his life in 1546, Martin Luther famously said, "We are beggars" before God. In our liturgy (order of worship), which includes hymns and songs, specially selected Bible readings, preaching, and Holy Communion, God serves us by delivering to us sinful human beings the good news of Jesus Christ as Savior, which we grasp by faith. We respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, which carries over into our everyday lives.

### PARENTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. If you have to leave worship with your children, feel free to do so, but even more so, feel free to come back in!

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**  
**Service of Word and Prayer WOV (Blue Book) p. 46**

*Watchword: And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. – John 1:14b ESV*

**PRELUDE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The people stand*

**OPENING HYMN:**     *Angels From the Realms of Glory*                      Green Book 50

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

**C: And also with you.**

A: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.** (John 1)

**HYMN:**                      *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*                                      Green Book 44

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who not lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The people may be seated*

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*

*From a young age, Samuel was taught to serve the Lord, his God. With time, he grew not only in size, but in maturity of faith and understanding.*

<sup>18</sup>Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup>And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord.” So then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

*Psalm 148*

*The verses chanted alternately by the cantor and the congregation.*



<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;\* praise him | in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;\* praise him, | all his host.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, | sun and moon;\* praise him, all you | shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,\* and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the Lord;\* for he commanded, and they | were created.

<sup>6</sup>**He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;\* he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord | from the earth,\* you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,\* tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,\* fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,\* creeping things and | winged birds;**

<sup>11</sup>kings of the earth | and all peoples,\* princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,\* old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the Lord,\* for his name only is exalted,  
his splendor is over | earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his | loyal  
servants,\* the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!**

## THE SECOND LESSON

*Colossians 3:12-17*

*Paul gives a picture of the Christian life, how being a chosen one of God directs our actions.*

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand*

## THE GOSPEL

M: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

*Luke 2:41-52*

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The people may be seated*

## SERMON

Kelly O'Reilly, Lay Minister

*The people stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

*What Child Is This*

Green Book 40

M: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** (Ephesians 1:13-14)

**APOSTLES' CREED**

M: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.** (Jude 20)

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God.

**C: Look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Jude 21)

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**  
(2 Cor. 5:17)

M: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*The people kneel/sit for silent reflection and self-examination*

M: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

M: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

M: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. (2 Cor. 13:11)

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

*The people stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Green Book 54

A: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**C: in the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

*After each petition: A: Lord, in your mercy,   **C: hear our prayer.***

M: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C: 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.**

M: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

**C: Amen.**

M: May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

M: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.** (Romans 15)

**CLOSING HYMN:**   *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Green Book 55

M: Go in peace. Christ was born for you!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE POSTLUDE



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Jacobson, Pastor



## COMMEMORATIONS:

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As Christians in the twenty-first century, we are called to remember that God's people of the past form a great "cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). In that spirit, we commemorate memorable Christians of the past, usually on the day of their death. Though imperfect, their witness inspires us today as we run the race of faith. This week, the Church commemorates:

Jan. 1 THE NAME OF JESUS

Jan. 2 Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, pastor, 1872

Jan. 5 Kaj Munk, martyr, 1944

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR EPIPHANY (OBSERVED) (January 5)

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Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12