

What a Story!





Serving the Portland Area with the Means of Grace and as a family of believers for over 110 years... as a church, school, preschool, mission, and ministry.

Church Campus: 7610 NE Fremont Street, Pastor – Pastor Thad Bitter (503 .290.6316– call /text)
School Campus: 2252 SE 92nd Street, Principal - Justin Eternick (920.988.1999 – call /text)
Preschool: 2252 SE 92nd Street, ECE Director Tammy Godish (503.312.4230 – call /text)

Advent 3 – December 17th, 2023

Welcome!

GRACE ~ *“I am not ashamed of the gospel...”*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

GRACE ~ *“These are written that you may believe...”*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for 110 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God’s Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the WELS.

GRACE ~ *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God’s grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen.” 2 Pt. 3:18**

Order of Service for
THE SEASON OF ADVENT



HYMN:

CW21 Blue #354 (1-3) Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

*Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,
Only begotten Son of God the Father.*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, All glory in the highest.*

*Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions and plead for His mercy and grace.**

ABSOLUTION

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death. *Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, Jesus, our Savior, who has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God’s mercy, today we light the Shepherd’s candle. It is a candle that reminds us of the JOY with which the shepherds returned after seeing the Christ child. So great was their joy that they spread the word concerning what they had been told.

C: We wait for the Lord, and in his word and promise we are prepared to meet him.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES WITH THE CHILDREN:

M: We light three Advent candles now.

C: The Shepherds’ Candle kindles bright.

M: Dispelling darkness, Jesus comes

C: and warms us with his holy light.

M: We see the shepherds on the hill

C: who heard the angels’ “Gloria,”

M: who ran to find the holy Child

C: and knelt in gratitude and awe.

M: The shepherds were not slow to trust

C: the angels’ unexpected word,

M: nor were those shepherds shy to share

C: the miracle they’d seen and heard.



HYMN:

CW21 Blue #325 (1-3) *My Soul in Stillness Waits*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you,
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

*O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

*O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

WHAT A STORY!

INTRODUCTION

Principal, Justin, Eternick

SONG

K-2 “Who Is this Child We Worship?”

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

NARRATION

Gwendolyn Setniker

RECITATION K-8

Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6

SONG K-8

“O Little Town”

NARRATION

Aiden Sali

SONG 3-8

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

AN ANGEL'S STARTLING MESSAGE

NARRATION	Amos Suci
RECITATION 3-4	Luke 1:26-38
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN	CW21 Blue #332 (1-3) Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

*Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.*

*To this vale of tears he comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with him in heav'n's fair homes
We may reign in gladness.*

*We are rich, for he was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.*

NARRATION	Alexia McCarran
RECITATION 5-8	Matthew 1:18-21
SONG K-8	"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

A BABY IS BORN

NARRATION	Mae'Niyah Williams
RECITATION K-2	Luke 2:1-7
SONG K-8	"O Little Town"

UNEXPECTED GUESTS

NARRATION

Sophia Sali

RECITATION 5-8

Luke 2:8-20

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard On High / Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”
Congregation and Students

Congregation:

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Students “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel” (vs.1)

Congregation:

*Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Students “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel” (vs.2)

CONCLUSION

Pastor Bitter

THANKSGIVING



THE OFFERING

An opportunity to give online can also be used at
[Paypal.me/GracePortland](https://paypal.me/GracePortland) or by utilizing this QR code:

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

CW21 Blue #350 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"*

*Hail the heavenly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"*