



**for** UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN  
UNTO US A SON IS **given**



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.

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## Christmas Day – December 25th, 2021

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 over 100 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 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (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**

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

## INVOCATION

## HYMN

CW 50 (1-2) Once in Royal David's City

*Once in royal David's city - Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby, In a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*Stand*

## EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this blessed Christmas morn. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

**C: Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words that Christ himself taught us.

**The Lord's Prayer Sung**

Tune: Away in A Manger  
Traditional Tune



***Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!  
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same  
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.***

***The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;  
From evil deliver your children most dear.***

***For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.  
And your is the power; all things you maintain.  
To you be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.***

CHRISTMAS DAY DEVOTION

Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born. To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

# GOD PROMISES A NEEDED GIFT

## FIRST LESSON

## GENESIS 3:8-15

*Humanity's separation from God dates to the beginning of time, to the fall into sin by the first humans, Adam and Eve. As tragic as this was, the account ends with God's promise of a stunning gift—that the woman's offspring, Christ, would ultimately defeat Satan and restore us to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"  
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

## HYMN

## CW #34 NOW SING WE, NOW REJOICE

*Stanza 3 speaks of the need for God's gift and the ultimate "opening" of that gift: "Death was reigning o'er us... till he opened for us a bright eternity."*

***Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!***

***Now through his Son doth shine - The Father's grace divine!  
Death o'er us had reigned - Through sin and vanity;  
Till he opened for us - a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!***

# GOD'S GIFT IS DESCRIBED

## SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

*Striking symbolic language describes the gift more than 700 years before it was given.*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and of  
understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of  
the LORD—

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and  
faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the  
viper's nest.

<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge  
of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

## HYMN

## CW #62 (1-2) JOY TO THE WORLD

*This familiar hymn echoes thoughts from the lesson as we jubilantly sing about God's gift.*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing!**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

# GOD REVEALS WHERE HIS GIFT WILL APPEAR

## THIRD LESSON

## MICAH 5:2-4

*God wants there to be no doubt about his gift. Through prophecy he reveals the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born. The wonder of fulfilled prophecy continues to convince people about the validity of God's gift even today.*

<sup>2</sup> “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

## HYMN

## CW #65 (1-2) O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*Not to a palace in a city does God send his gift, but to an obscure village. "How silently the wondrous gift is given" (stanza 2).*

***O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***

***How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.***

# GOD'S GIFT COMES THROUGH A MIRACLE

## FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

*So many of God's ways of intervening in our world are beyond our understanding. We are blessed to receive God's gift when, like Mary, we humbly accept God's plan and marvel at it.*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



## **HYMN**

## **CW #24 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME**

*Mary recognizes that God had given to her the greatest gift any human had ever received, to be the mother of the long promised Messiah. Mary, in response sing a song of praise - the Magnificat.*

***The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,  
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!***

***"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:  
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.  
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!***

***Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!***

***Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!***

# **THE GIFT IS "GOD WITH US"**

## **FIFTH LESSON**

## **MATTHEW 1:18-25**

*The first lesson described the human race's separation from God. God's gift to end this separation is his Son, Immanuel— "God with us."*

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his

people from their sins.”<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.<sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## **HYMN**

## **CW #23 (1,4) OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL**

*As God's people in ancient times longed for his gift to come, we long for the ultimate fulfillment of that gift. Through the gift of a restored relationship with God, the way to our heavenly home is wide open, and the path that leads from this life's misery to that home is safe and certain (stanza 4).*

***Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!***

***Oh, 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!***

# **GOD'S GIFT ARRIVES**

## **SIXTH LESSON**

**Luke 2:1-7**

*In a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, God uses the mighty powers of this world to accomplish his will and to deliver his gift wrapped in human flesh and placed in a manger.*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.<sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.<sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.<sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,<sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## HYMN

## CW #58 (1-2) SEE IN YONDER MANGER LOW

*The hymn reflects the Apostle Paul's wonder at Christ incarnation and gift God placed in the manger, "the mystery of godliness is great... that he appeared in the flesh!" (1 Timothy 3:16)*

**See in yonder manger low, Born for us on earth below,  
See --the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

# GOD'S GIFT IS CELEBRATED

## SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

*The angels can't help but celebrate God's gift. The shepherds eagerly spread the word of this gift as announced by the angels. We too join them, glorifying and praising God for all that we have been told.*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## HYMN

CW 57 GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*We celebrate the gift of Christ Jesus by telling others the good news of his birth and our salvation.*

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light...  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, That hailed our Savior's birth...  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn...  
Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

## THE OFFERING

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



## THE BLESSING

**M:** May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit— be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

## HYMN

CW #49 REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN

*We rejoice at God's great gift on Christmas*

**Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!**

**A Savior unto us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glory.**

**His lowly birth in Bethlehem**

**The angels from on high proclaim - And sing redemption's story.**

**My soul, Extol! God's great favor; Bless him ever, For salvation.**

**Give him praise and adoration!**