

JOY
HAS
Dawned
UPON THE WORLD





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)

Christmas Day – December 25th, 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 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 / EXHORTATION

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

M: Dear people of God, 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 to 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. Today in word and song let us learn in Holy Scripture and from these hymns the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

HYMN

CW21 #352 (1-2) Joy Has Dawned

*Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for every nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glory.
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary.*

*Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.*

CHRISTMAS DAY DEVOTION

Luke 2:8-11

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

1. Oh, how joy-ful-ly, oh, how mer-ri-ly

Christ-mas comes with its grace di-vine!

Grace a-gain is beam-ing, Christ the world re-deem-ing.

Hail, ye Chris-tians, hail the joy-ous Christ-mas time!

2. Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily,
 Christmas comes with its grace divine!
 Peace on earth is reigning,
 Christ our peace regaining,
 Hail, ye Christians!
 Hail the joyous Christmas time!

3. Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily,
 Christmas comes with its life divine!
 Angels high in glory,
 Chant the Christmas story,
 Hail, ye Christians!
 Hail the joyous Christmas time!

JOY IS PROMISED

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 joy to the world.

⁸ 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. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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

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

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

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

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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

CW21 BLUE #356 (1-2) GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN

God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.

Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

O tidings of comfort and joy – comfort and joy!

O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came.

And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same.

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

O tidings of comfort and joy – comfort and joy!

O tidings of comfort and joy.

JOY IS PROPHECIED

SECOND LESSON

ISAIAH 9:2-7

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

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time, like the celebration when people divide the plunder. ⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them. You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor, as you did in the day of Midian. ⁵Every boot that marched in battle and the garments rolled in blood will be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷There 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.

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #350 (1,3) 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"*

*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"*

JOY WILL DAWN IN BETHLEHEM

THIRD LESSON

MICAH 5:2-4

God wants there to be no doubt about his gift joy. Through prophecy God reveals the exact tiny village where Jesus would be born and joy would dawn in the world

² “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.”

³ 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.

⁴ 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

CW21 BLUE #333 (1-2) O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing To God the King and peace to all the earth.*

JOY WILL DAWN IN THE NAME "JESUS"

FOURTH LESSON

LUKE 1:26-38

So many of God's ways of intervening in our world are beyond our understanding. Jesus would bring joy into the world in way beyond human understanding.

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

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

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

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

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #328 (1,4) THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

*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!*

*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!*

JOY 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.”

¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ 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.²¹ 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.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

HYMN

CW21 BLUE #364 (1,2) LOVE HAS COME

*Love has come--a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

JOY DAWNED UPON THE WORLD

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. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So 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. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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 RED #58 (1-2) SEE IN YONDER MANGER LOW

*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!"*

JOY IS CELEBRATED BY REJOICING

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.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ 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."

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

CW21 BLUE #354 (1,4) O 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.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee – be all glory given!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,

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

THE OFFERING

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



THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER SUNG

Tune: Away in A Manger -Traditional Tune - CW21 Blue #340



***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.***

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN CW21 BLUE #331 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME

THE BLESSING

HYMN CW21 #352 (3-4) Joy Has Dawned

***Shepherds bow before the Lamb, Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands, Prophecy the story.
Gold, a King is born today, Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, His death will make a way, And by His blood He'll win us.***

***Son of Adam, Son of heaven, Given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man, Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, Now the Lord of history.***